

Belfast Annual Events and Festivals 2010

January

Out to Lunch Festival	6 -31 January Black Box, Hill St, Belfast	Out to Lunch will be serving a new and expanded 'menu' to residents, workers and visitors aimed to blow away those January blues and bring arts into the centre of the city.	T: 028 9023 2403 www.cqaf.com
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February

Féile an Earraigh	4-7 February Various Venues in West Belfast	A sister festival to August Feile, this festival offers music, culture and arts in abundance.	T: 028 9031 3440 www.feilebelfast.com
Chinese New Year Celebrations	14 February St. George's Market	St Georges Market plays host to the main event celebrating Chinese New Year. Traditional Chinese performances, art and craft workshops and specialist food stalls. Open to the public, entertainment for all the family.	T: 028 9028 8277 www.cwa-ni.org
International Festival of Chamber Music	19-21 February Queen's University Belfast	The Belfast Music Society, the longest-standing promoter of international chamber music and musicians in Northern Ireland, brings a festival of world-class music and musicians to audiences in Belfast.	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfastmusicsociety.org
Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival	24-28 February Various Venues	A scintillating jam-packed 5-day festival featuring the very best in song writing and performing.	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfastnashville.com

March

Belfast Fashion Week	8 - 12 March Old Northern Bank, Warring Street	For the ultimate in high street fashion and designer luxury, Belfast Fashion Week is back with new Spring/ Summer collections.	T: 028 9024 1919 www.belfastfashionweek.com
St Patrick's Day Carnival	17 March City Centre & Custom House Square	Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a carnival through the city and a free concert featuring a mix of pop and traditional music – an event for all the family!	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk

April

Belfast Film Festival	15 - 30 April Various Venues	Belfast Film Festival will take place across the city including a series of premiere screenings, so cinephiles get ready for a veritable feast of films!	T: 028 90325913 www.belfastfilmfestival.org
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Titanic Made in Belfast Festival	3 -11 April Various Venues	Belfast's most famous creation is commemorated in an annual festival of Tours, exhibitions, theatre and more celebrating Belfast's maritime heritage.	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk
Belfast Spring Fair	24 & 25 April Malone House and Barnett Demesne	A wide range of activities for all including floral art demonstrations, face painting and other entertainment for children.	T: 028 9027 0467 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/parks

May

Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	29 April-9 May Various Venues	Featuring readings, live music and performances; CQAF brings the streets to life with cultural revelry all day and into the wee hours!	T: 028 9024 6609 www.cqaf.com
Festival of Fools	29 April - 3 May Various Venues	This year's festival is not to be missed, bringing international performers to the streets of Belfast.	T: 028 9023 6007 www.foolsfestival.com
Belfast City Marathon	3 May Belfast City Centre	Ready, set, go! All events will start at Belfast City Hall and finish in Ormeau Park.	www.belfastcitymarathon.com
Medieval May Day	3 May Holywood	Step back in time to medieval days and see Holywood transformed with a medieval theme, watch traditional Maypole dancing, live shows, food fair and street entertainment.	T: 028 9127 0069 www.northdowntourism.com
Balmoral Show	12-14 May King's Hall	From livestock, show jumping, and over 400 trade stands, right through to crazy clowns, and an eight-foot robot, the Show has something for everyone.	T: 028 9066 5225 www.balmoralshow.co.uk
Belfast Children's Festival	21-30 May Various Venues	Celebrate the 12 th birthday of the city's most friendly and fun festival with music, theatre and art for all the family.	T: 028 9023 0660 www.belfastchildrensfestival.com
Ballyclare May Fair	25-30 May Ballyclare	This picturesque market town will be a hive of activity with the traditional horse fair, continental market, fun fair, craft stalls and live stage performances.	T: 028 9034 000 www.newtownabbey.gov.uk
Garden Show Ireland	21-23 May Hillsborough Castle	A spectacular show of gardens and entertainment, alongside the unique opportunity to view the walled gardens of Hillsborough Castle.	T: 028 9250 9254 www.gardenshowireland.com
National Countrysports Fair	29 & 30 May Moira	Now enjoying its fourteenth consecutive year, this 2-day event is recognised by Irelands' country sports community, as the country's biggest and best game fair.	www.gamefaireland.com
'Féile laughs at the bank' comedy festival	28-30 May Bank Square	Enjoy the bank holiday weekend with a festival full of comedy at Bank Square.	T: 028 9031 3440 www.feilebelfast.com

June

South Antrim Fishing Festival	5-6 June		T: 028 9034 000 www.newtownabbey.gov.uk
Titanic Belfast Maritime Festival	4- 6 June Belfast harbour	Some of the world's most spectacular ships will sail into Belfast for some fantastic family fun.	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events
Summer Festival of Racing	18-20 June Down Royal	This weekend of style, entertainment and first class racing is certainly worth experiencing.	T : 028 9262 1256 www.downroyal.com
County Down Pipe Band Championships	19 June Castle Park, Bangor	Castle Park. Up to 60 bands. Listen to the sounds of pipes and drums from pipe bands and drum majors from all over UK an Ireland.	T: 028 9127 0069 www.northdowntourism.com
Glengormley Country & Western Festival	24-26 June		T: 028 9034 000 www.newtownabbey.gov.uk
Belfast City Carnival	19 June (TBC) Belfast City Centre	A colourful carnival through the city centre celebrating the end of the Lord Mayor's term in office.	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk
Sea Bangor festival	26 & 27 June Bangor Seafront	Avast me hearties for a weekend of maritime family fun. Come and visit our tented village at Bangor's seafront for fantastic food stalls, children's entertainment all with a nautical theme.	T: 028 9127 0069 www.northdowntourism.com

July

OrangeFest	12 July Belfast City Centre	This year's 12 th of July celebrations bring you 'Orangefest', a family friendly pageant open to all, especially tourists and indeed anyone in multi-cultured Belfast on this day.	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfastorange.com
Rose Week	13-18 July Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park	It is an event for all the family with competitions in the Rose Garden, music, children`s entertainment and much more.	T: 028 9032 0202 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/parks
Belfast Pride	24-31 July Various Venues	Pride Week is designed to celebrate diverse sexual and gender identities, histories, cultures, politics, families and lives.	T: 028 9089 0202 www.belfastpride.com
European Pipe Band Championships	31 July Civil Service sports grounds, Stormont	Belfast is to host the prestigious European Pipe Band Championships with around 90 top class international pipe bands from all over the world competing, bringing with them more than 25,000 competitors and spectators.	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events

August

Féile an Phobail	30 July –8 August Various Venues	Concerts, debates, tours, exhibitions, drama and street theatre at various venues in West Belfast with world-class and international acts playing alongside Irish talent.	T: 028 9031 3440 www.feilebelfast.com
Belfast Taste and Music Fest	5-8 August Botanic Gardens	Four glorious days of great food, big stage continuous live entertainment and dancing...All arranged to celebrate Northern Ireland and Chicago chefs 'cooking up a storm' with great local food!	T: 028 9024 6609 www.belfasttasteandmusicfest.com
Ulster Grand Prix Bike Week	9-14 August (TBC) Dundrod, Lisburn	The Ulster Grand Prix attracts thousands of spectators to the fastest road racing circuit in the world.	T: 028 9250 9460 www.lisburncity.gov.uk
Hilden Beer Festival	27-29 August Lisburn	With live entertainment and a fantastic range of world beers to taste, this is an extremely popular festival set in Hilden Brewery.	T : 028 9266 3863 www.festival.hilden-taproom.com
Newtownabbey Shoreline Festival	28-30 August Newtownabbey	'Rock on the lough' with an array of bands, fun activities and fireworks extravaganza.	T: 028 9034 000 www.newtownabbey.gov.uk
Belfast Mela	28 & 29 August Botanic Gardens	Mela in Indian means gathering. This event is an anthology of traditions, art, colours, music, dance and enjoyment.	T: 028 9023 1381 www.belfastmela.org.uk

September

Hillsborough Oyster Festival	5-8 September Hillsborough	Four days of fun in Hillsborough, including the international oyster eating competition, soap box derby and Canadian boat race.	www.hillsboroughoysterfestival.com
Open House Festival	8-12 September Cathedral Quarter	An intimate boutique festival that fuses the eclectic American roots scene with the Irish Music scene in a most contemporary way.	T : 028 9024 6609 www.openhousefestival.com
Garden Gourmet	18 & 19 September Botanic Gardens	Highlights include Northern Ireland's largest flower show, fruit and vegetable displays, live music and award-winning food and drink stalls.	T : 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events

October

Belfast Fashion Week	October (TBC)	For the ultimate in high street fashion and designer luxury, Belfast Fashion Week is back with new Autumn/ Winter collections.	T: 028 9024 1919 www.belfastfashionweek.com
Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queens	15-30 October	A Festival showcasing the best of international art	T: 02890 97 1034

	Various Venues	and Northern Ireland's rich and vibrant cultural scene.	www.belfastfestival.com
An Draíocht	25-30 August West Belfast	A magical event packed full of activities for children and young people with drama, arts and crafts, puppet shows, multi-media workshops and much more!	T: 028 9031 3440 www.feilebelfast.com
Halloween Celebrations	31 October Clarendon Dock	Celebrate Halloween with a spectacular fireworks display, performers and other family entertainment!	T : 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk

November

Cinemagic	11-26 November Various Venues	A cinephile can be born at any age, so Belfast is delighted to present its annual film festival for young people.	T: 028 90311900 www.cinemagic.org.uk
Christmas Tree Lights	November (TBC) Belfast City Hall	Celebrate the countdown to Christmas with the annual Christmas lights switch-on. There`ll be music and entertainment to keep the crowds happy before our celebrity guest illuminates the streets.	T : 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk
Continental Market	17 Nov – 19 Dec (TBC) Belfast City Hall	Enjoy the wonderful continental food and delightful aromas. This has become one of Belfast's real Christmas treats!	T : 028 9024 6609 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/markets

December

St George's Christmas Fair and Market	4 & 5 December St. George's Market	Don't miss St. George's Christmas Market for seasonal fair and a wide range of gourmet foods and festive crafts.	T: 028 9043 5704 www.belfastcity.gov.uk
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