

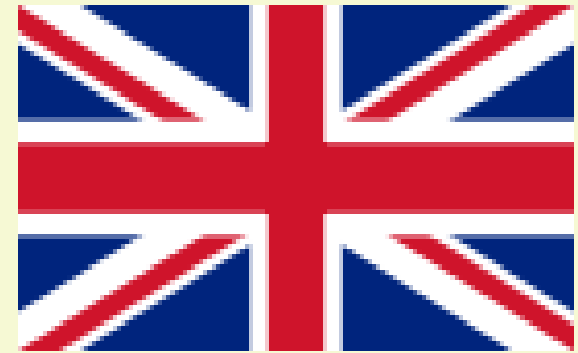


Welcome to Northern Ireland





Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland is a country which is a part of the United Kingdom. It is situated in the north-east of Ireland.

It shares a border with the Republic of Ireland to the south and west.

Its population is about 3% of the total UK population.

Northern Ireland was established as a distinct administrative part of the UK on 3 May 1921.



Belfast

Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland.

It has been the capital since its establishment in 1921. Belfast expanded very quickly from a market town to the industrial city.

It is the largest urban area in the province of Ulster and the second largest city on the island of Ireland.

Belfast is situated on the eastern coast of Ireland. Including the city centre, the city can be divided into five areas with north Belfast, east Belfast, south Belfast and west Belfast.



The symbol of Northern Ireland

A shamrock is the national emblem of Ireland. It became a symbol because it grows everywhere and it has three leaves.

The number three is very special for Irish people, some of them think it is magic.

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland used shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of Trinity.



Government and politics

Northern Ireland has its government within the United Kingdom.

Northern Ireland elects 18 Members of Parliament to the House of Commons.

The Northern Ireland Office represents the UK government in Northern Ireland and represents Northern Irish interests within the UK government.

The Northern Ireland Office is led by the Secretary of State who sits in the Cabinet of the UK.



**Parliament Buildings
in Belfast**

Irish history

In 1922 the south of Ireland was made independent from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and became the Republic of Ireland.

Northern Ireland remained joined politically to Britain and the UK was born.

It was a popular decision with most Irish Protestants, but it was unpopular with most of the Catholic population, who wished Ireland to remain a united country. This was a great conflict between these two groups.

Even today the Northern Irish population remains divided between Unionists, who want to remain a part of the UK, and Republicans, who oppose it.

Places of interest



Queen's University



Silent Valley



Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

**The Giant's
Causeway,
County Antrim**



Counties



County Down

Northern Ireland consists of six historic counties: County Antrim, County Armagh, County Down, County Fermanagh, County Londonderry, County Tyrone.

These counties are no longer used of governmental purpose.



County Fermanagh



County Antrim

Culture of Northern Ireland

A great number of tourists usually visit Northern Ireland to appreciate its unique heritage.

Attractions include cultural festivals, musical and artistic traditions, pubs, welcoming hospitality and sports.



a holiday in Northern Ireland

Watching and playing sports is a very important part of Irish culture. Almost six out of ten of the adult population in Northern Ireland participate in one or more sports.

Northern Ireland has several notable sports such as football, golf, rugby and ice hockey.

Test yourself!

1. Northern Ireland is situated in
2. The population of Northern Ireland is
3. The capital city of Northern Ireland is
4. ... is the national symbol of Northern Ireland.
5. Belfast is divided into ... parts:
6. ... is the patron saint of Ireland.
7. There are a lot of places of interest in Northern Ireland such as
8. Northern Ireland consists of ... counties:
9. Attractions in Northern Ireland include
10. Irish people are fond of sports: