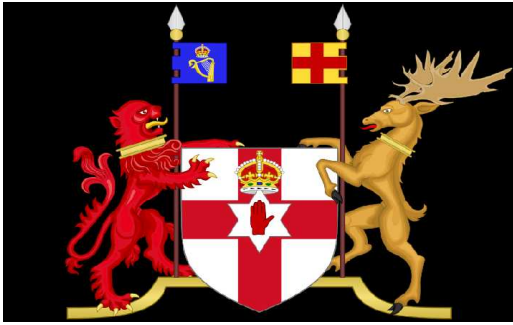


## EDINBURGH– CARDIFF – BELFAST 12. – 22. AUGUST 2012

In August, we decided to take a trip to these three capitals within UK. Having been in Edinburgh and Cardiff for a few days, we traveled on to [Belfast](#) in Northern Ireland. We traveled from Cardiff on 19 August at 16.40 and we arrived in Belfast at 17.50. Belfast is the capital of [Northern Ireland](#).



The coat of arms of Northern Ireland

[Ulster](#) (Ulaidh) was originally a kingdom, which about 400 AD was divided in three. Norwegian Vikings had for a time supporting points here. After the Anglo-Norman conquest Ulster came under English rule. After an uprising in 1607, many Irishmen were driven from Ulster, and the earth went to Scottish and English immigrants. [Oliver Cromwell](#) continued these evictions. When the Irish demand for self-government (Home Rule) arose in the 1800s, antagonism between the Irish and British people in the area intensified. The Irish-British Agreement of 1921, which led to the creation of the Irish free state, applied to the whole island, but gave Northern Ireland the right to stand outside. The Protestant majority in the north decided not to link to the free state, and six of the nine counties of Ulster remained under British rule, while three joined the Irish free state. The self-government agreement came into being despite the opposition from [Sinn Féin](#) and the Catholics, who demanded that Northern Ireland should unite with the Republic in an independent Irish state. The conservative Unionists sat with political power in Northern Ireland and consolidated it in 1920 - and 1930's. Among other there was introduced a selection system with single-circuits by British pattern, there was created an almost pure Protestant police force and it was passed laws such as outlawed [IRA](#), the Catholic terrorist organization that fought for a united Ireland.

Belfast is named after the river [Feirste](#), now for the most runs in pipes under the city, the River [Lagan](#) is now the the most important in the area. The town lies at the mouth of the Lagan, near Belfast Lough. It is surrounded by mountains, including Black Mountain, Cavehill and Castlereagh Hills.

A Norman castle was built here as early as 1177, but the town was not given city rights until 1613.

After the partition of the island, Belfast became the capital of Northern Ireland in 1920.

From the beginning of the 1600s there was a large-scale immigration of Scottish, Welsh and to a lesser extent English Protestants, and from the end of the century and in the 1700s, a significant immigration of French Huguenots.

The strong migration of Protestants from the United Kingdom made Belfast to a stronghold of Protestantism in Ireland, and the relationship between the Protestant and Catholic population has always been more or less tense. The conflict from 1969 to the truce in 1994 has particularly strong effects in Belfast. The violence has partly led to a sharp decrease in city population. The antagonism between the Protestant and the Catholic part of the population has also resulted in a highly segregated settlement patterns. Catholics are concentrated in the southwestern districts, while Protestants predominate in the eastern parts.

The city center has in recent years been upgraded greatly, especially the area by the river. Much of it is pedestrianized.



The coat of arms of Belfast





We had booked at [Pearl Court Guesthouse](#), which lies a bit south of the city center, but not far from the university.

We took a taxi from the airport and we checkend in late afternoon.

In the evening we had dinner at a restaurant next to the hotel where we stayed. It is called [The Barking Dog](#).



The breakfast room.

Here we got simple breakfast.

We could have an omelet if we wanted.



This is a church not far from the hotel.



Right down the street lies [Queen's University](#). It was opened in 1849 and now it has about 25 000 students.



A couple of pictures of the university.



A church, which lies just past the university.  
It looks worn down and shut down.



Crescent Church lies across the street.



The Thomas Thompson Memorial Fountain.  
Thompson was surgeon and founded  
Charitable Home for the Incurable.



Ormeau Baths.  
This public bath complex was built in 1888 for those who  
had not running water.  
The building was sold in 1990 and currently houses  
an art exhibition.



Ulster Hall is a concert hall, which was built in 1859.



The entrance to the concert hall.



Arriving to [Belfast City Hall](#).  
The building started in 1898 and it was finished in 1906.



In the city center.



[Linen Hall Library](#) is the oldest library in Belfast.



The library.



The front of Belfast City Hall.



This is the entrance to [Victoria Square](#), a large shopping center.



The rear side of the Custom house

[Albert Memorial Clock](#) was built in 1869 and is one of the best known land marks in Belfast.



[Queen's Bridge](#), which is crissing the river Lagan.



We entered a sightseeing bus and are at the [Titanic area](#). This is [Odyssey Arena](#), a large sports and entertainment hall with room for 10 000 spectators.



The whole Titanic area is a large urban renewal project, where both the docks and new apartment blocks are included.

This building is called [Titanic Belfast](#) and here the story of the area is told.

[The home page](#) to Titanic Quarter.



Here we have just passed by [SS Nomadic](#), which lies in Hamilton Dock. It was built in 1910/11 to be a supplyship for Olympic and Titanic. It is at the moment under restoration.



On the other side we can see the big cranes [Goliath and Samson](#). Each crane can lift 850 tons 70 m up.



Here lies [HMS Caroline](#), a light cruiser, which was built here in 1914. It is the second oldest ship in the Navy after [HMS Victory](#).



This is [Titanic Dock & Pump House](#).



The entrance to the harbor area.



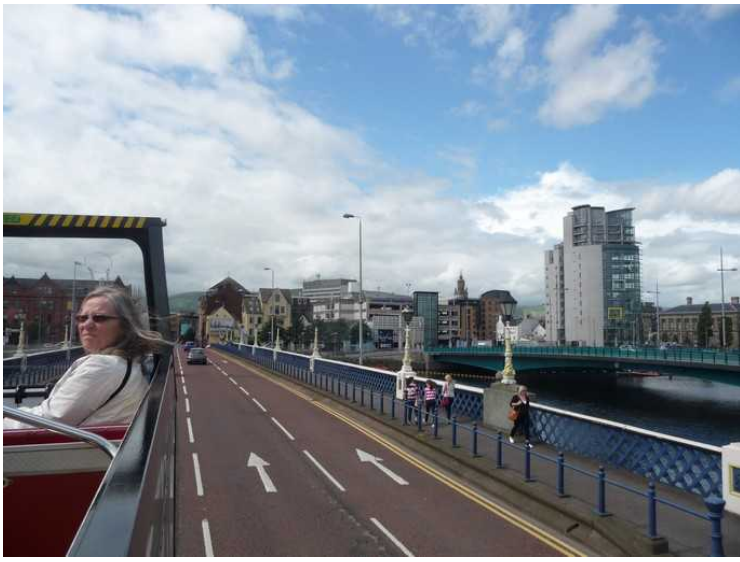
Now we are on our way back to the city center. It is mainly in this area the Protestant inhabitants live, and this township is famous for its political wall paintings.

[Belmont Presbyterian Church](#)

Below are some of the wall paintings that we passed by.







Back to the city center on the Queen's Bridge.



In the end of the bridge stands this figure, [The Thanksgiving Statue](#).



[Waterfront Hall](#) is a conference center next to the river.



This is a part of the [Old Town Hall](#).



One of the entrances.



[Jaffe Fountain](#)) at [Victoria Square](#).



Stylish house.



St Anne's Cathedral



St. Patrick's Church.



Bullet-proof monitoring camera at the top of the pole.



In Crumlin Road lies Crumlin Road Courthouse.



The former prison, Crumlin Road Gaol, lies on the other side of the road. It is connected with courthouse via a tunnel.

Below follows some pictures from the [Peace Walls](#) in [Shankill Road](#).

Due to the turmoil in the 1970s and beyond, there was set up many such physical barriers between Catholic and Protestant areas, particularly in Belfast and Derry, but also several other places. After the conditions have become much quieter in the latest years, there have been painted on their walls and they are turned tourist destinations itself.

Below are some photos from the ride in the western part of Belfast.









St. Peter's Cathedral



Garden of Remembrance







A monument, which is called [Rise](#).



The most famous hotel in the city, [Hotel Europa](#). It known as the most bombed hotel in the world.



We had lunch a couple of times at [The Morning Star](#). They had good food.





Flowers outside The Morning Star.



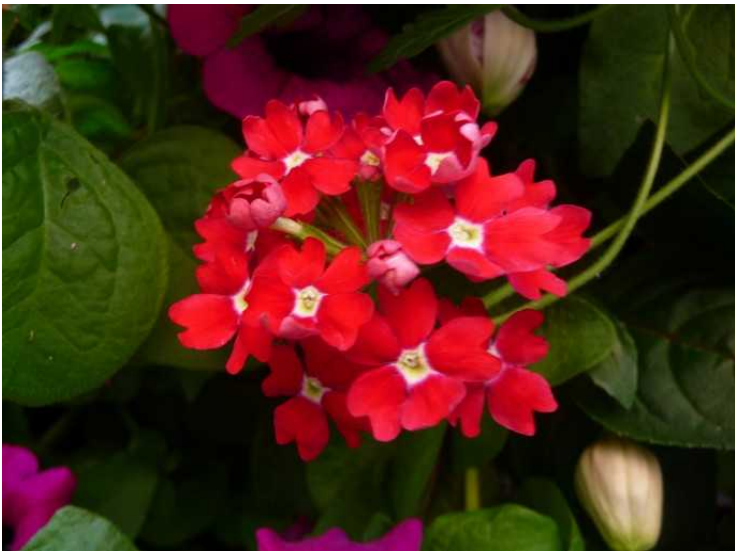
Inside the restaurant.



The staff is working with the buffet.



Kjell is paying.



Close-ups of the flowers outside.



Musicians outside The Morning Star.



This sculpture is standing outside the entrance to Victoria Square. It is called [Spirit of Belfast](#).



On the way back to our hotel, we are walking past Hotel Europa again.





The hotel is located in this building.  
These pictures were taken the last day, and then it was  
time to go back to Norway again.

We took a taxi to the airport, Flybe to Gatwick and from  
there Norwegian to Oslo Airport, Gardermoen.

