

January 2015



Northern Ireland

Security Overview and Travel Assessment



armadaglobal

INVESTIGATIONS • INTELLIGENCE • SECURITY

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Executive Summary

Northern Ireland is a part of the United Kingdom. It is located on the island of Ireland and is often frequented by international travelers. Because the region is a first-world country, crime is relatively low, and there are not any unusual safety precautions which need to be enforced. Despite this, travelers should be cautious of pick-pocketers when arriving and during visits to popular tourist sites. Additionally, health risks are very low, and visitors to the country will have access to proper healthcare facilities, if needed.

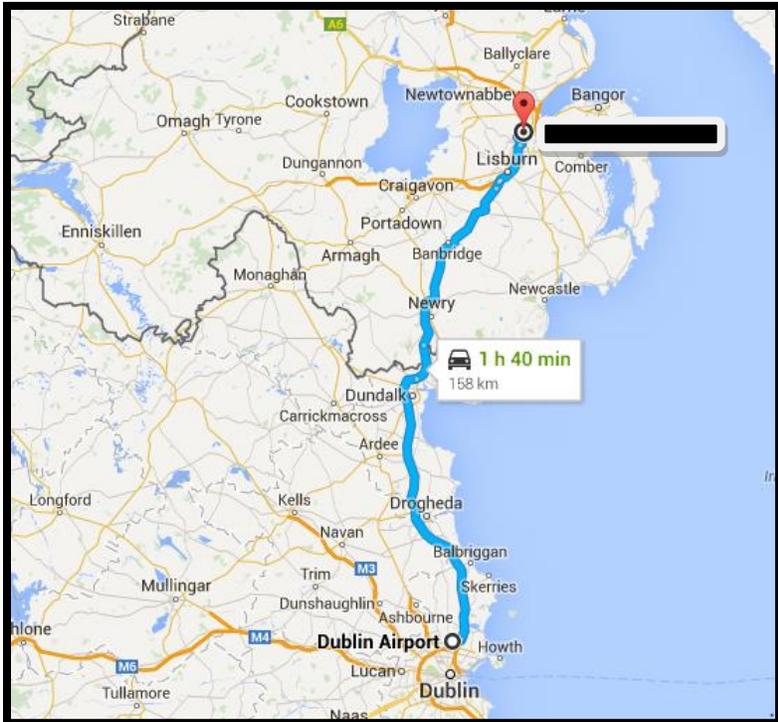
Arrival at Airport

Belfast International Airport is located in the capital city of Belfast, Northern Ireland. This airport is situated 28-minutes outside of center city Belfast which makes the airport a generally safe area. In the most recent data reported (2012) for the airport specifically, the Police Service of Northern Ireland indicated a total of 19 crimes, of which only four were deemed to be violent in nature. Travelers should not have any abnormal safety concerns when traveling onward from the airport.

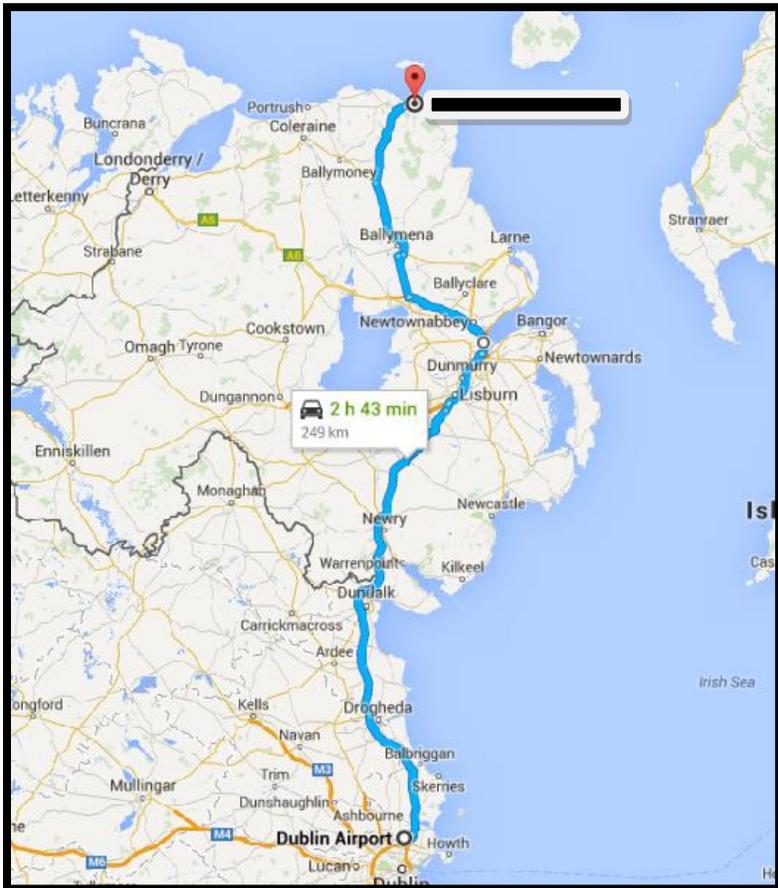
Dublin Airport is situated approximately 20-minutes north of center city Dublin. Arrival at Dublin Airport should be very safe as significant crimes involving foreigners rarely occur. While there are no recent reports of major crimes against foreigners, offenses do occur at and around the airport given its location in a large city hosting a significant amount of visitors. The most recent report of a major crime was in November 2014 when a man traveling from Abu Dhabi was found with cocaine-laced candy that he was suspected of transporting.

As with all international travel, it is important for foreigners to be vigilant of their surroundings and keep a watchful eye on luggage. Do not leave bags unattended for any length of time and do not touch others' unattended luggage. Pick-pocketing occurs frequently at airports in Ireland and is often reported by foreigners who have just landed in Ireland, more frequently in Dublin than Belfast. Pick-pocketers often operate in large groups and use a distraction while the crime is being committed. More than 200 people report stolen passports in Dublin each year as recorded by United States Department of State. In order to prevent pick-pocketing, travelers should not carry large amounts of cash and only keep what is necessary on their person. If carrying a passport, store it separate from a wallet or handbag.

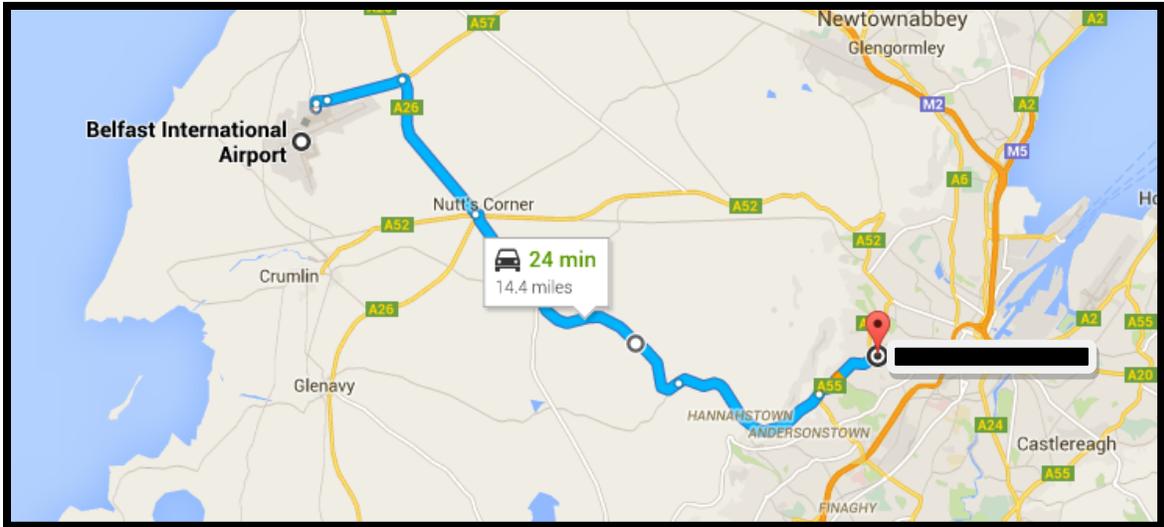
The maps below depict the safest routes for travelers going onward from the airports:



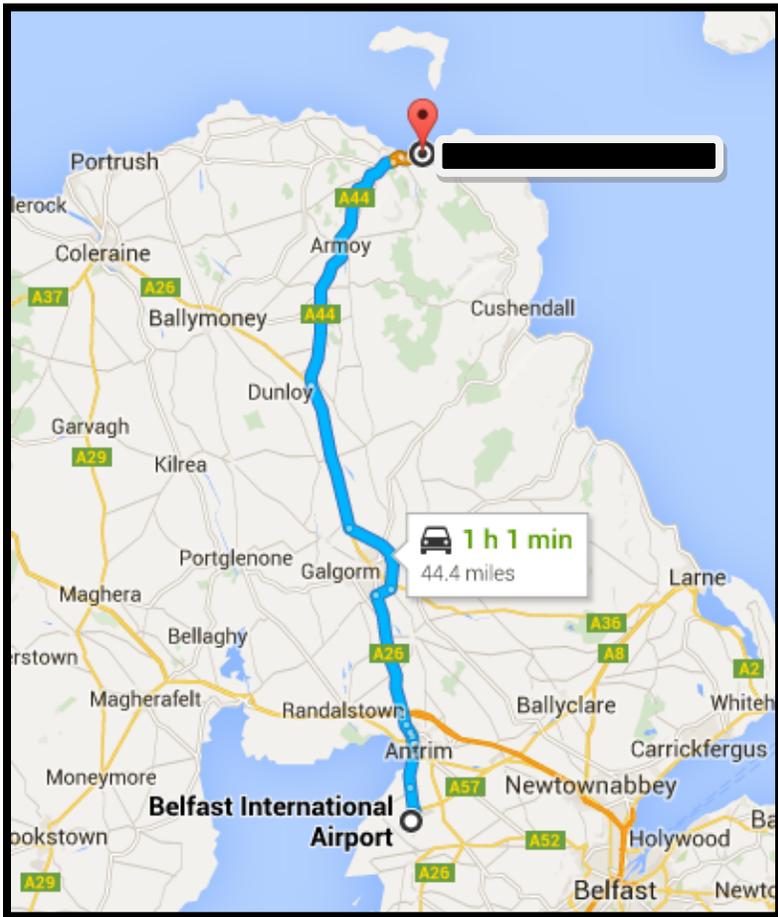
Dublin Airport to XXXX via M1



Dublin Airport to XXXX, Ballyclare via M1 and A26



Belfast International Airport to XXXX via B154



Belfast International Airport to XXXX, Ballycastle via A26 and A44

Political Situation

Over the past two years, the political situation in Northern Ireland has improved greatly with the completion of a successful four-year term by the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2011. While murder rates in Northern Ireland are very low, a threat from political violence remains. In recent years, political extremists in Northern Ireland have been the main culprit of the rise in security incidents. Security personnel and the military, not tourists, have been the foremost victims of these crimes which have involved firearms and explosives. Police stations, private homes of personnel, and justice sector buildings have been targeted, and while the violence is not directed against tourists, foreigners have been caught at the wrong place at the wrong time.

The most recent instance of this type of crime occurred on November 3, 2014, when a pipe bomb was thrown at a passing police patrol vehicle in Derry. The bomb damaged the police vehicle then ricocheted into a nearby garden and ignited, leaving the police officers unharmed. While this event occurred in Londonderry, away from Belfast and Ballycastle, similar illustrations do occur in both of these areas.

As recently as 2013, political demonstrations directed at law enforcement in Northern Ireland have occurred and resulted in minor damage. During the summer marching season from April to August, various groups commemorate historic events or particular causes, leading to increased tensions and more violence in the area. An upsurge of violence also tends to occur on the July 12 annual public holiday. These are examples of why travelers should always employ a heightened situational awareness.

Crime

While overall crime has shown an overall downward trend over the past ten years according to monthly reports distributed by the police department in the United Kingdom, crime has slightly increased from September 2013 through September 2014 as compared to the previous twelve months. The majority of these crimes involved violence without injury and increasingly included sexual and drug offenses.

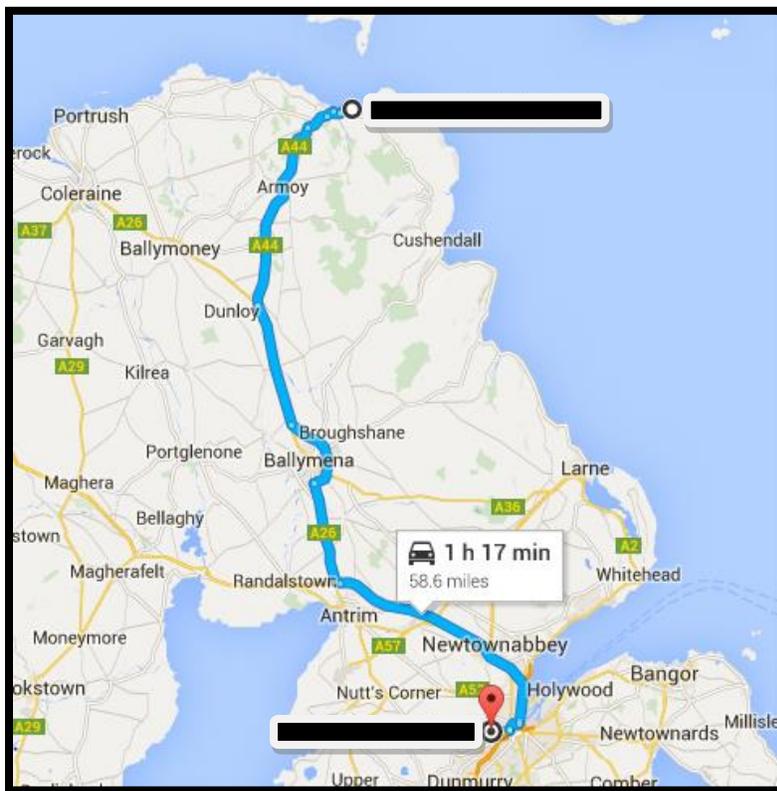
From October 2013 until September 2014, Northern Ireland experienced 105,050 crimes, a 3.1% increase from 101,847 crimes in the previous twelve months. More specifically, recorded crime in West Belfast, the home of XXXX Airport, has seen a slight increase, while Moyle, the police district where XXXX is located, has experienced a slight decrease in crime.

In the monthly crime report, West Belfast had 438 violent crimes against people (includes homicide) and 536 violent crimes without injury for a total of 974 violent crimes from April to September 2014. During this same time frame, this portion of the city experienced 61 sexual

offense, 42 robberies, and 853 thefts. In all of these areas, crime has increased in 2014 as compared to the same time frame in 2013.

Moyle police district, where XXXX is located, crime has generally decreased in 2014 as compared to 2013. Violence with injury (including homicides) has decreased from 104 in 2013 (April-September) to 91 in 2014. The types of crime which experienced a very minimal increase in this same time period included sexual offenses, robberies, and theft. Sexual offenses increased from 8 to 9, robberies from 0 to 1, and thefts from 119 to 120.

In comparison, the city of Pittsburgh has a homicide rate of 14.6 murders per 100,000 inhabitants compared to 1.2 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in Northern Ireland.



When traveling between XXXX and XXXX Ballycastle, make use of A26 and A44 as this is the safest, most direct route.

Other Sites Visited

Throughout Northern Ireland, foreigners may visit popular locations, such as the Giants Causeway or the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge. These tourist destinations have not experienced any reportable crimes within the past year according to research conducted by Armada Global. Because these destinations are often frequented by foreigners, the Police Service of Northern Ireland works to keep these areas as safe as possible for visitors. Despite this, visitors should be mindful of pick-pocketers. The same precautions as stated previously should be followed when touring national historic sites and popular tourist destinations in Northern Ireland.

According to the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the area of Londonderry/Derry has seen a 1.4% drop in overall crime from October 2013 until September 2014. In October 2014 a total of 287 crimes were reported, of which 73 were considered violent and sexual in nature. 105 of the 287 crimes were attributed to antisocial behavior. The crime throughout Londonderry is not localized to one specific area, but rather widespread across the area. The Police Service denotes Londonderry to be a safe place for foreigners and locals to visit, but it is advisable that travelers take precautions as pick-pocketing can occur.

Health Information

Vaccines

There are no required vaccines to travel to Northern Ireland. Routine vaccines are highly suggested and, depending on the exact type of work being conducted, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and rabies vaccines are advised. It is best to speak with your doctor to determine if these vaccines would be beneficial.

Hiking

Be mindful of hiking conditions before heading out. Several people die each year in the United Kingdom from hiking-related incidents, which are often due to the combination of sudden changes in the weather with treacherous terrain. It is best to talk to local residents and guides before hiking to determine if it is safe to continue with the plans. If possible, hikers should make use of tour guides who are very familiar with the local trails.

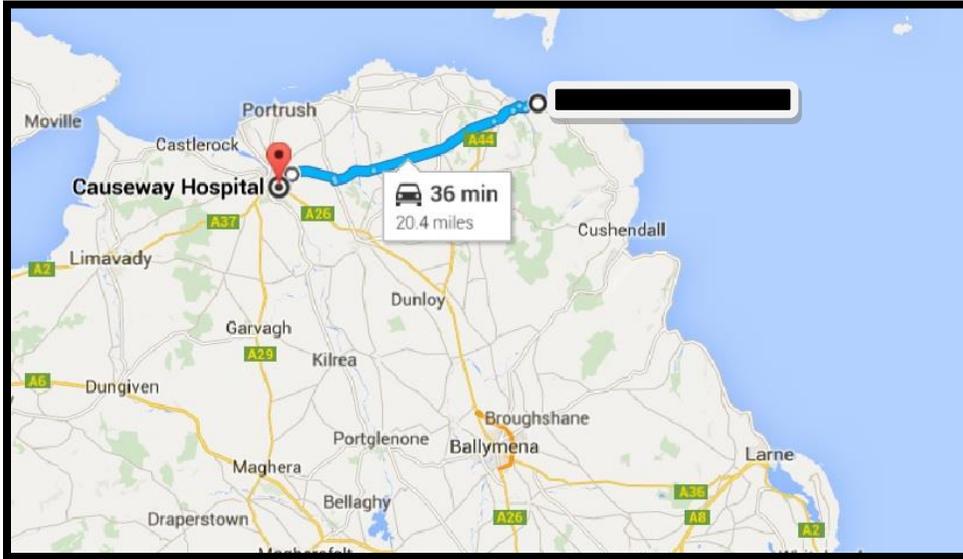
Hospitals

Free health care under the National Health System is only available to residents of the United Kingdom and certain EU nationals. Travelers should be aware that medical costs may be significantly higher in Northern Ireland as compared to the United States. Before receiving medical care, it is important to ascertain whether your health insurance will be accepted at the medical facility. Northern Ireland has outstanding medical facilities and travelers should not worry about receiving quality medical care if it is necessary.

Closest Hospital to Ballycastle

Causeway Hospital
4 Newbridge Road
Coleraine
County Londonderry BT52 1HS

36 minutes; 20.4 miles



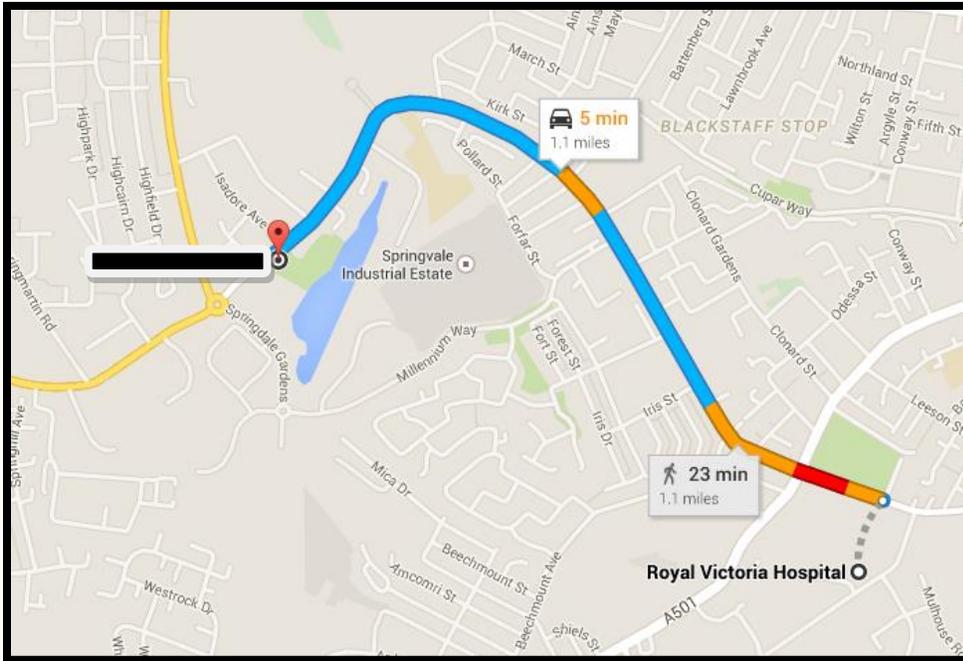
The safest, most direct route from Ballycastle to Causeway Hospital is via Moyarget Road.

Closest Hospital to XXXX

The Royal Hospital
274 Grosvenor Road,
Belfast
BT12 6BA

Tel: (028) 9024 0503; Fax (028) 9024 0899

5 minutes; 1.1 miles



The safest route from XXXX to The Royal Hospital is via B38.

Safety Recommendations

Armada Global advises all travelers to practice the following security awareness techniques:

- Be cognizant of your surroundings
- Avoid predictable patterns and change your travel routes
- Do not dress extravagantly or wear expensive jewelry
- Travel in groups
- Use only trusted transportation nodes (arranged by western hotel, for example)
- Do not hail street cabs
- Prior to your trip, register with the U.S. Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program - <https://step.state.gov/step/>
- Ensure you have proper vaccinations and have registered for travel insurance and medical evacuation coverage

Transportation

Local Bus Services: www.translink.co.uk

Local Taxi Services

Value Cabs (028) 9080-9080

Fon-a-Cab (028) 9033-3333
City Cab (028) 9024-2000

Emergency Contacts

Police: 999, 112
Ambulance/Medical Personnel: 999, 112
Non-Emergency Number: 101
Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800 789 111

Antrim Road Police Station

280 Antrim Road
Belfast
BT15 5BB

Ballycastle Police Station

12 Ramoan
Ballycastle
County Antrim
BT54 6EG BT54 6EG

U.S. Embassy

U.S. Consulate General Belfast, Northern Ireland

Danesfort House
223 Stranmillis Road
Belfast BT9 5GR

Phone: [44] (0)28 9038 6100

Fax: [44] (0)28 9068 2219

Emergency Contact for U.S. Citizens

- 01253-501106 if dialing from the UK;
- 011 44-1253-501106 if dialing from the U.S.; or
- International dialing code +44-1253-501106 if dialing from elsewhere