

# POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

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## Northern Ireland at 100

Dates: 6 nights

**Sunday, 20 June – Saturday, 26 June 2021**

### **Londonderry, Belfast**

*Led by William Graham*

*The trip coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Northern Ireland's foundation in June 1921.*

We look at the legacy of The Troubles and come up to the present day with the latest on Brexit's impact on the province. The UK's departure from the EU puts new pressures on the province. Unionists are angry about the deal struck by the UK's government; it sets up a customs border across the Irish Sea. At the same time nationalists see the deal as pushing them towards a United Ireland. Is that a possibility?

Meetings in **Londonderry/Derry & Belfast** with politicians, community leaders, former paramilitaries and people from both loyalist and nationalist communities. Contributors from Dublin also give their perspective.

The tour is led by the veteran reporter **William Graham**, a well-known journalist in Northern Ireland whose career covered the entire Troubles and the two-decades since The Good Friday Agreement.

**Price: £2950.00**

Single Supplement: £350.00

Breakfast, lunch and all accommodation are included in the price. Dinners where conditions permit. As on all our expert-led tours, the groups are deliberately small and will not exceed 14 people. Flights are not included and need to be arranged with your own travel agent.

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*Like all our tours the itinerary is focused on current affairs. Events on the ground may change and the final schedule may be adjusted accordingly.*

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## Itinerary

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### **Day One – Sunday: Derry/Londonderry**

We meet in the evening for an introductory briefing on Northern Ireland today. *(We can help arrange transfers from Belfast Airport if you are arriving by plane from the UK). Overnight Derry/Londonderry*

### **Day Two – Monday: Stroke City**

Derry/Londonderry (take your pick depending on your allegiance) is as good a place as any for an introduction to “The Troubles.” We get a guided tour of the city walls and Apprentice Boys Hall and the Bogside. This where some of the earliest clashes of the troubles took place, including the infamous shooting by the British Parachute Regiment of demonstrators on Bloody Sunday. While the Bogside is now a venue for tourists, it is also the scene of turf wars between competing political groups including renegade Republicans. *Overnight Derry/Londonderry*

### **Day Three – Tuesday: 100th Anniversary of Northern Ireland**

Drive to Belfast where we witness the *celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland* (details to be confirmed) followed by a tour of the city chronologically. East Belfast where the city’s prosperity has its foundation – including Parliament Buildings at Stormont – to west where the Troubles spilt onto the streets. Victims of the violence talk about the legacy of the conflict and their lives now. A former senior officer talks about the difficulty of policing in a divided society. *Overnight Belfast*

### **Day Four – Wednesday: The Settlement and Challenge from Brexit**

At Stormont we review the power-sharing agreement that apparently made the best of friends out of two men who were once the worst of enemies – Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein and Ian Paisley – both now deceased. We’ll also review the challenges faced by the UK’s decisions to leave the European Union. Nowhere does the issue pose more problems than in Northern Ireland – both in practical and constitutional terms. *Overnight Belfast*

### **Day Five – Thursday: Brexit’s Impact on the Ground**

We get the latest analysis on Brexit’s impact both in terms of business and trade as well as its political impact. Added bureaucracy and costs are one factor; it’s also having ripples at a community level. We speak with former Loyalists angered by what they see as a step towards the break-up of the Union. *Overnight Belfast*

### **Day Six – Friday: Out of Belfast**

We meet with key politicians and journalists to address key questions from the week. Contributors for Dublin give us The Republic’s view. How do politicians in Dublin view a United Ireland, and how might that change Ireland itself. There are some surprising answers. *Overnight Belfast*

### **Day Seven – Saturday: Out of Belfast**

*Tour ends after breakfast*