

WELCOME TO THE GOLDEN MILE

The relaxing walk between City Hall Gardens and Botanic Park encompasses two historic districts, both of which combine stunning Victorian architecture with contemporary culture.

The Linen Quarter is characterised by beautiful red brick buildings, once used as Linen Warehouses, but now converted into high end offices, bars and restaurants.

Queen's Quarter, based around the University, is noted for its arts venues, hospitality and attractive park.

These distinctive districts have a fascinating story and there are many voices in which to tell it: from Opera House to Accidental Theatre; Empire Music to Crescent Arts; or simply a cosy drink with friends in the Crown Liquor Saloon.

Why not walk the Golden Mile and create your own experience?

Guide:

- Museums and Galleries
- Music Venues and Theatre
- Places and Spaces
- Sculptures and Street Art



2 GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Belfast's majestic Grand Opera House has delivered laughter, tears and applause since 1895. Since opening its doors to the public, this beloved venue has played host to some of the biggest names from the world of entertainment. The opulent building is designed in high Victorian oriental style and is considered the best surviving example of the famous theatre architect Frank Matcham. The Opera House has just received a £12m refit and will reopen at Christmas 2021.

4 THE CROWN LIQUOR SALOON

The Bar was opened in 1826 and was called the railway tavern, it was renamed in 1849 to the Crown liquor Saloon and was refurbished into a grand Victorian gin palace in the 1880's. It remains one of the finest examples of a Victorian Gin palace and Sir John Betjeman led a campaign in the 1970's to preserve it for the nation because of the level of detail and its original Victorian features. The campaign was successful, and The National Trust took over the building in 1978.

3 FLAX AT LINEN QUARTER

Opening in September 2021, this vibrant hospitality space includes food and drink, outdoor games, and entertainment space. Why not enjoy a social drink over a game of French Boules on the adjacent Square? Flax at Linen Quarter is also surrounded by some of the best bars, restaurants and hotels in the City.



1 CITY HALL

This lavish building, constructed in Portland Stone, was designed in the Baroque Revival style. It serves to celebrate the city status bestowed upon Belfast by Queen Victoria in 1888 and subsequently opened in 1906. The site was previously occupied by the White Linen Hall. The perfectly manicured lawns surrounding Belfast City Hall contain a wealth of memorials to the history, people and events associated with the city and include the Titanic Memorial Garden.

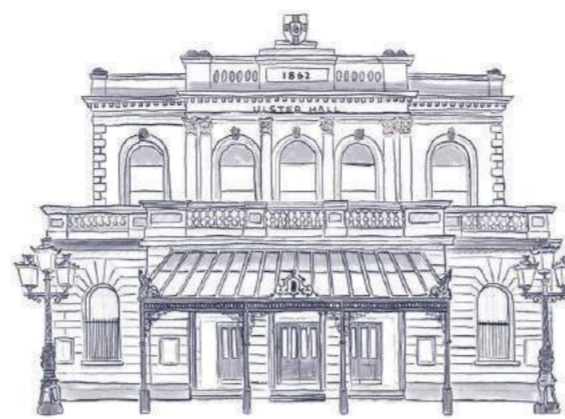
6 THOMAS THOMPSON FOUNTAIN

The fountain was erected in 1885 to commemorate surgeon Thomas Thompson, one of Belfast's pioneers in the fight against cholera. The monument was designed by the preminent Belfast architects Young and MacKenzie and opened by Lord Mayor Sir Edward Harland.



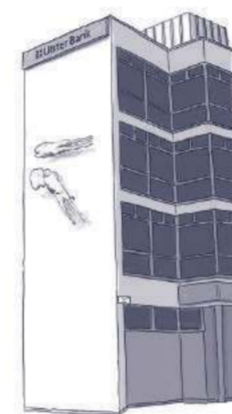
5 ULSTER HALL

This imposing Victorian-era grand ballroom was designed by W.J. Barre in Italianate style and was completed in 1862. As one of the largest music halls in the British Isles, it has hosted a range of world famous artists including Led Zeppelin, the Rolling Stones, U2 and Rory Gallagher. The Ulster Hall's magnificent Mulholland Organ was donated by the local linen magnate Andrew Mulholland. The ground floor art gallery features thirteen scenes from Belfast history, produced by local artist Joseph W. Carey.



8 'FLYING FIGURES' BY ELISABETH FINK

This controversial public art work, commissioned by the Ulster Bank, was completed by Elisabeth Fink in 1964. It represents figures in flight that are referred to as "Draft and Overdraft" by Belfast locals.



12 CRESCENT GARDENS PARK

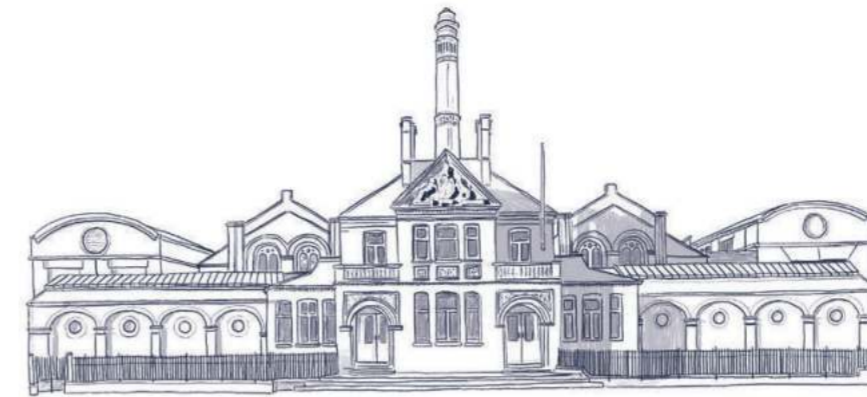
A lovely tree lined square surrounded by a historic church and Georgian terraces. The park is a peaceful, sunny oasis from the bustle of the city, and a great place for a takeaway coffee or simply to relax and read a book.

9 ACCIDENTAL THEATRE

Behind the yellow stage door of Accidental Theatre hides a modern black box Theatre and studio as well as a legendary Book Bar. Come take a picture at the Instagrammable yellow door, buy a book and have a drink in the Book Bar and stay for the yoga classes, life drawing, theatre, live music and so much more.

10 THE BELFAST EMPIRE MUSIC HALL

Opened in 1987, the Belfast Empire is an atmospheric entertainment venue, bar and restaurant housed in a former church building dating from c1880. As well as hosting vibrant music gigs for local, national, and international artists, The Empire has been a leading comedy venue for over 25 years.



7 ORMEAU BATHS

This beautiful Victorian building opened in the late 1880s as a public bath to improve personal hygiene for those living in the South Belfast area. It re-opened in 1995 as a contemporary art gallery and today hosts the Tech Hub, a co-operative networking centre for tech start-up companies.



11 CRESCENT ARTS CENTRE

The Crescent Arts Centre is a thriving arts centre which is located in a building that was built in 1873 by Margaret Byers, a pioneer for women's education as a school for girls at a time when academic education, for young women was not widely available. The Centre has a popular Creative Learning Programme that has been running for over 30 years and an Events space that showcases talent, ideas and conversations. Crescent Arts also runs the Belfast Book Festival and is home to 10 creative arts organisations.

13 QUEEN'S FILM THEATRE

This independent cinema was set up in 1968 to bring art house and world cinema to Belfast. It plays an important role in the cultural life of Belfast, serving as a venue for events such as the Belfast Festival, the Belfast Film Festival and the CineMagic Festival.



14 QUEEN'S LYNN BUILDING

This building, which now hosts Queen's University's Graduate School, was originally built in 1868 as a library. The building's distinctly ecclesiastical neo-gothic design perhaps aimed to provide the university with a chapel without breaching its non-denominational character.

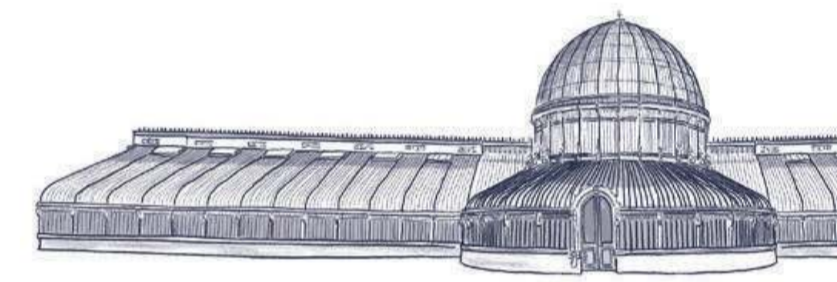


15 QUEEN'S LANYON BUILDING

Completed in 1849, this impressive building was named after its architect, the renowned Sir Charles Lanyon. His design borrows from the Gothic and Tudor character of the great medieval universities. The building houses the Great Hall, while the Naughton Gallery was established in 2001 to showcase the University's collection of gifts, bequests, and art purchases since the foundation of Queen's College in 1845.

16 NAUGHTON GALLERY

Situated at the heart of Queen's University on the first floor of the Lanyon Building, the Naughton Gallery is one of Belfast's most exciting visual arts spaces. The gallery presents a rolling programme of original contemporary exhibitions, exhibiting work by both local and internationally renowned artists. Art can also be found beyond the gallery at Queen's, including the outdoor Sculpture Collection and the Great Hall Portrait Collection.



17 "ECO" BY MARK DIDOU

The French artist Marc Didou used MRI scanning as a medium to create this sculpture. It was acquired by Queen's University in 2008 to both mark its centenary as well as the opening of the Queen's University Library (The McClay Library) building that sits behind it.



19 TROPICAL RAVINE/ PALM HOUSE

The Palm House is one of the earliest curvilinear cast iron glasshouses in the world and predates similar curvilinear Palm Houses in Kew and Glasnevin. Work began in 1839 and the wings were completed in 1841. The dome was added in 1852 to complete the structure we recognise today. The Tropical Ravine was completed in 1889 and recently underwent a £3.8m restoration project. It is host to tropical and temperate plants from around the world including the Dombeya x cayeuxii and is home to the very rare Killarney Fern.



20 ULSTER MUSEUM

Located in the beautiful Botanic Gardens, Ulster Museum is the home of Northern Ireland's treasures – past and present. Since opening its doors in 1929, the museum has welcomed people from far and wide to explore its unique collections of art, history and natural sciences that take you on a journey across the globe and through the ages. You'll find everything from dinosaur bones, Spanish Armada treasure, incredible art, artefacts from Ireland's deepest history and sparkling rocks from the far reaches of space. Be sure to stop by its beautiful café on your visit and keep an eye out for the expertly crafted willow Dragons inspired by the hit TV show, Game of Thrones.

18 BOTANIC GARDENS

These 28-acre gardens opened in 1828 as the private Royal Belfast Botanical Gardens. It became a public park in 1895. A statue to Belfast physicist Lord Kelvin marks the entrance to the Park. It is home to the Palm House and the Tropical Ravine, giant bird feeders, a rose garden, an alpine garden, mature trees, flower beds and sculptures.

