

# Maritime Mile Blueway Trail

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Look out for signage and panels at each stop on the trail where you can find facts and information about local wildlife and sustainability, as well as answers to the quiz!

Check out our map and make your way around each of the stops on the Maritime Mile Blueway Trail. Your expert navigational skills will help you on your very own waterfront adventure, while learning all about the natural heritage of Belfast's waterfront. Once you have finished the trail, complete the online quiz at [maritime-mile.com/blueway](http://maritime-mile.com/blueway) for a chance to win some amazing prizes!

Depending on your pace, the trail can be a 60-minute blast of fun, or you can stroll the whole Maritime Mile and enjoy the views, cafes and attractions over a leisurely day out!

## Did you know?

The Maritime Mile represents one navigational mile of water

- Attraction
- Food and drink
- Accommodation
- Public art
- Belfast bikes
- Glider bus stop
- Glider route
- Train route
- Walkways



Tag us in your pictures using #MaritimeMile

Tag us in your selfies!

## Questions

- 1 How many litres of water per day can one oyster filter?
- 2 Every Autumn/ Winter, the River Lagan becomes home to a certain well-known species of fish, do you know what this is? (Hint: look out for the 'big' sculpture on Donegall Quay!)
- 3 Can you name three types of insects which might be living in the Bug Hotel in the Queen's Quay Planter?
- 4 The Belfast estuary and River Lagan are now home to lots of fish – how many begin with the word common?
- 5 Take a moment and listen carefully to the SoundYard play installation. Can you tell us what inspired the hammering, clanging and riveting noises it makes?
- 6 Which famous maritime event in 2009 was the Abercorn Marina constructed for?
- 7 What are the three colours of the Belfast Buoys?
- 8 From the Back to the River Photography exhibition, find the Future cube and tell us what was the most visited place on the waterfront?
- 9 Located in the Hamilton Dock, how old is the Caisson Gate?
- 10 Can you name the most famous White Star Line ship that was designed in the former Harland & Wolff Drawing Office, now called Titanic Hotel Belfast?

# Maritime Mile Blueway Trail

To help you on your adventure, here's some fascinating facts about Belfast's waterfront & some useful clues!

## Did you know?

The Harbour Marina is now Blue Flag accredited.

# The Heritage Around Us

## Past & Present

Belfast Harbour has a long history, dating back over 400 years! The harbour was where three rivers met – the Lagan, the Blackstaff and the Farset, all tumbling down the hills around Belfast to meet the sea.

The area was sandy and marshy, and the Belfast estuary was once home to lots of fish, oysters and other marine life.

As Belfast developed from village to town to city, there was more trade, and the harbour was difficult to navigate. Local merchants looked at how they could improve the river, and developed plans to straighten and deepen it, creating new places for larger ships to dock and unload their goods.

But Belfast was growing and starting to build bigger ships. More land was needed, and the shipbuilders expanded from one side of the Harbour to the other, leading to the development of Harland & Wolff.

The world's most famous ship RMS Titanic was built here – on the slipways in front of the Titanic Belfast building. There are still some shipbuilders in Belfast

– Harland & Wolff are still here, joined by Artemis Technology, but they are increasingly investing in green technology. Belfast Harbour aims to be a carbon neutral port, and the harbour is involved in the development of river basin management plans and biodiversity strategies. All these plans are to encourage wildlife back into the estuary, and Belfast Harbour is working to clean the water as well.

## Did you know?

Where Titanic Belfast is now was once a Peoples Park – with a bird aviary and gardens

# The World Around Us

## Wildlife

Seals have been resident in Belfast Harbour for a few decades now, as the water became cleaner through the reduction of big industry in Belfast, and the Harbour's efforts to clean the water.

There is a colony of harbour or common seals at the far end of the harbour, and the seal sculptures at City Quays pay tribute to them. Common seals are actually rarer than grey seals, and are a grey/brown colour with spots, a pale belly and a short muzzle. They can grow to be as big as humans and weigh as much!

The Harbour is also now home to 180 species of birds from all over the world, who all visit the wildlife sanctuary at the entrance to Belfast Harbour where there is a lagoon. There are wader birds, including black-tailed

godwit, redshank, lapwing, dunlin and snipe, as well as ducks, including teal, shelduck and wigeon, and water birds such as water rail, heron, various gulls and nesting terns in the summer.

The wildlife sanctuary is also home to some konik ponies who graze the wetlands and grassy areas around the lagoon.

As well as seals and birds, there are now several species of fish and eels in the harbour too – including European eel, herring, salmon, flounder, pollock and sea trout.

## Did you know?

Belfast Harbour is home to wader birds, ducks and water birds.



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[maritime-mile.com/blueway](http://maritime-mile.com/blueway)

