



## GREEN ROUTES | BELFAST

*Learning about sustainable trends in European cities  
and promoting sustainable solutions in urban areas*



## **Green Routes**

Erasmus+ Project Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation  
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### How to use the guide?

This guide is accompanied by an Augmented Reality APP: “green routes” which can be downloaded from the Green Routes website at the link: <http://greenroutes.eu>.

After download, open the app, select the corresponding city from the menu and frame the photos, to access extra multimedia content.

## Green Routes

### **Learning about sustainable trends in European cities**

The deteriorating state of the natural environment, the number of species of flora and fauna threatened with extinction and, last but not least, the accelerating rate of climate change are real threats not only to the fate of future generations. Many of the negative consequences of reckless human activity, which sustainable development measures are trying to prevent, are already affecting us today. These include, for example, natural disasters and the accompanying phenomena of hunger and impoverishment. In the case of global warming, scientists also agree: we must act now. The situation is similarly bad when it comes to natural resources - many deposits are already running out and their extraction is becoming increasingly costly and damaging to the ecosystem.

The idea of sustainable development postulates social and economic progress that takes place without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. At the heart of sustainable development theory is concern for the state of the natural environment and the preservation of its riches for generations to come.

Sustainable development is not just about reducing the negative impact of human activity on nature, but this is undoubtedly its primary objective. Specifically, adult education is a driver in the interconnections of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and can contribute to the UN's 2030 Agenda. Sustainable development is an organising principle for meeting human development goals while also sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend. There is a real need for education for sustainable development, and especially non-formal education has a very high impact.

The Green Routes project aims to contribute to sustainable development as a small stepping stone towards a better future for ourselves and our children. Our main goal of Green Routes is to create a toolkit to promote sustainable solutions and trends in urban areas. How do we do it? Through innovative digital tools and creative solutions.

We would like all participants of the project to be conscious about being more sustainable as a community, organisations and individuals. We expect them to be ready to share their new knowledge, to teach and encourage others and to get involved.

That is why we have chosen 5 interesting stops in each partner city, which will show the best sustainable innovators in our city. The Green Route consists of a short description and covers a map. Each stop covers at least 3 sustainable development goals out of 17. The 17 SDGs are no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced Inequality, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace, justice, and strong Institutions, partnerships for the goals.

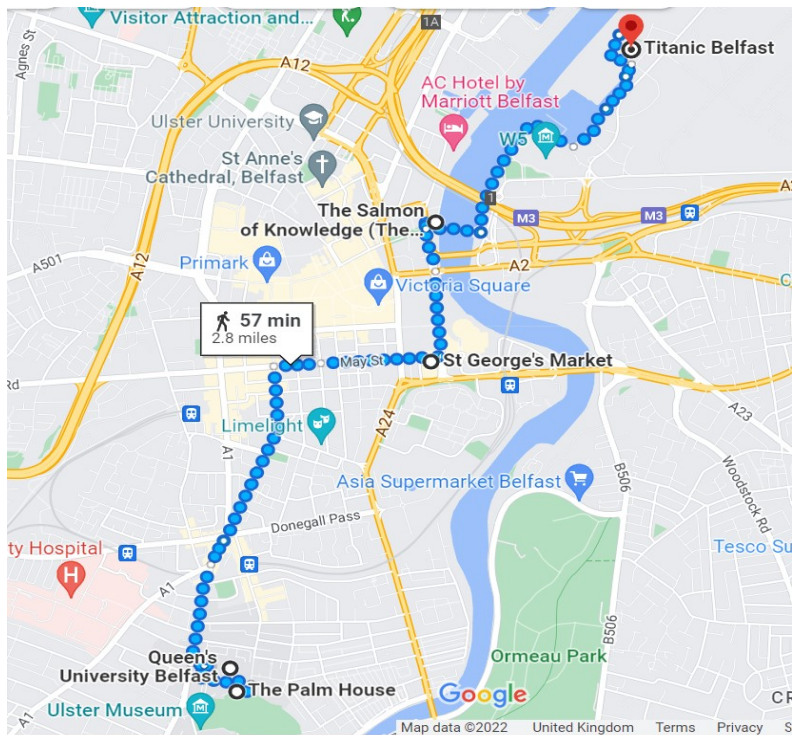
You can find more information about tours, further project results and project on the web page <http://greenroutes.eu/>

Do not forget to check your knowledge on sustainable development and sustainable innovators in your city here <http://greenroutes.eu/#>

Please enjoy the tour!

## Green Routes Interacting UK Limited Route in BELFAST

**On foot, 5 km, by public transport 40 min - 5 stops**



### **The Prodigal Green City of Belfast**

The deeply religious roots of Belfast's founding families were nurtured on biblical reference and imagery.

The story of the prodigal son who takes many wrong turns in life before returning home to be embraced by his family is a particular favourite. Let's extend that metaphor to the city and its new embrace of green and sustainable culture and industry.

The drama of its transformation matches that of the parable.

During the height of Belfast's success as an industrial hub of the British Empire, boasting the world's biggest shipyards and processing plants for tobacco and cotton, the city pumped out smog and its pollution was a symbol of its wealth and prosperity.

The decline of heavy industry led to a decline in the city's fortunes with massive unemployment a backdrop to the well documented 'troubles' which made Belfast a synonym of violence and division.

Things have changed, a new green Belfast is emerging, the Big Fish included in our Green Route was commissioned to celebrate the return of fish to the river Lagan after decades of industrial pollution making the river uninhabitable.

The Titanic quarter is now home to cutting edge digital industries, state of the art educational facilities and tourism fronted by the iconic Titanic Museum.

There are green roots everywhere you look in Belfast, from signage, to recycling units, to university funded initiatives. Instead of smoky heavy industry we have light, green and positive vibes coming from our City of Song.

Each of the stops along this tour will focus on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal number 11, "Sustainable Cities and Communities". Wherever possible, we will also identify links with other goals.

The tour has been designed so it can be led by one person.

The public are met by our narrator, protagonist and tour guide for the tour: Alexander Von Humboldt. He is attired in the typical Humboldt costume.



## **Botanic Gardens and Palm House**

ADDRESS: College Park Avenue, Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7 1LP



The Botanic Gardens are an important part of Belfast's Victorian heritage and a popular meeting place for residents, students and tourists.

Moreover, green space is fundamental to the Belfast City Council's policy for sustainable spaces. As well as an important impact on sustainable development goal number 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities, this stop links with Sustainable Development Goals numbers 3, 4 and 15, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, and Life on Earth.

The Botanic Gardens were established in 1828 by the Belfast Botanic and Horticultural Society, in response to public interest in horticulture and botany. Originally known as the Belfast Botanic Garden, the site contained exotic tree species and impressive plant collections from the southern hemisphere, many of which can still be seen in the park. Today, the park is popular with residents, students and visitors and is an important venue for concerts, festivals and other events. It is home to the Palm House and the Tropical Ravine.

The Botanic Gardens also provide a forum for the promotion of conservation, maintenance and development not only of the gardens but also for the historic buildings and monuments found within the grounds. The scientific value of the plant collections both in the gardens and under glass are

important for research. The environmental worth of the gardens as a habitat for wildlife in the centre of the City of Belfast is also of important significance.

Various organisations are responsible for the continual maintenance and upkeep of the gardens but none more than the charitable organisation “Friends of Belfast Botanic Gardens”.

<https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Things-to-Do/Parks-and-Open-Spaces/A-Z-Parks/Botanic-Gardens>

<https://visitbelfast.com/partners/botanic-gardens/>



*Queen's University Belfast*

## Queen's University Belfast

ADDRESS: University Road, Belfast BT7 1NN



Queen's University in the heart of Belfast city centre is ranked in the top 200 universities in the world. The University is committed to becoming a leader in sustainability. To achieve these aims Queen's is striving to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals, not just across teaching and research but across all its operations. It is a shining example for SDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Plastics recycling and waste management are two of the pressing matters inside the Circular Economy and sustainability concerns. The Polymer Processing Research Centre (PPRC) at Queen's University Belfast has been at the forefront of developments in addressing the challenges of plastics waste and helping the industry find innovative solutions towards recycling.

Queen's is dedicated to recycling all materials used by teaching staff and students from confidential documents to fluorescent tubes and even printing cartridges. It is built on the idea of communal responsibility within the University among students and staff.

Queen's University has undertaken a rigorous programme to fall in line with many of our SDG's and also to show initiative and innovation in many areas. Below are listed some stated Queens University recycling policy

Queen's recycling policy

- WARPit programme to reduce unwanted waste around all university departments
- University's low carbon future campaign for a more sustainable university
- The Garden Team at Queen's and their pollinating programme

The SDG targets of Queen's University are varied and diverse covering SDGs 4,5,7 and 9, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Affordable and Clean Energy, and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure to name but a few.

[www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)



*St. George's Market*

## St. George's Market

ADDRESS: East Bridge Street, Belfast, BT1 3NQ



St. George's Market in Belfast is a unique place in Belfast city centre. The market has gone through a colourful history and in the past was mainly used solely as a fish market. It has been part of the rejuvenation initiative of Belfast city centre and is a focal point for local produce, diversity and sustainable initiatives. Not restricted only to sole traders, the market is also a cultural hub for performers and musicians.

St. George's Market has won many awards for its fresh local produce and a lovely atmosphere you'll find nowhere else. In 2014 it was named the UK's Best indoor market by the 'National Association of British Market Authorities.'

Produce on sale in the market is varied, including shellfish and fresh fish which are brought in daily from local fisheries such as Ardglass and Kilkeel. Fresh fruit and vegetables are sourced from local initiatives which also operate sustainable supply of soups through their kitchens for local charities. The working policy to keep as much as possible local is also evident in the numerous stalls dedicated to artisan crafts such as pottery, leatherwork and woollen goods.

A free shuttle bus links the market with Donegall Square and Adelaide street in Belfast. In addition to SDG 11, the main sustainable development goals in evidence at the market are 3 and 8, Good Health and Well-Being, and Decent Work and Economic Growth.

[St. George's Market](#)



*The Big Fish*

## **The Big Fish (the Salmon of Knowledge)**

ADDRESS: Donegall Quay, Belfast. BT1 3NG



“The Big Fish” was commissioned to celebrate the return of fish to the river Lagan after decades of industrial pollution that had made the river uninhabitable.

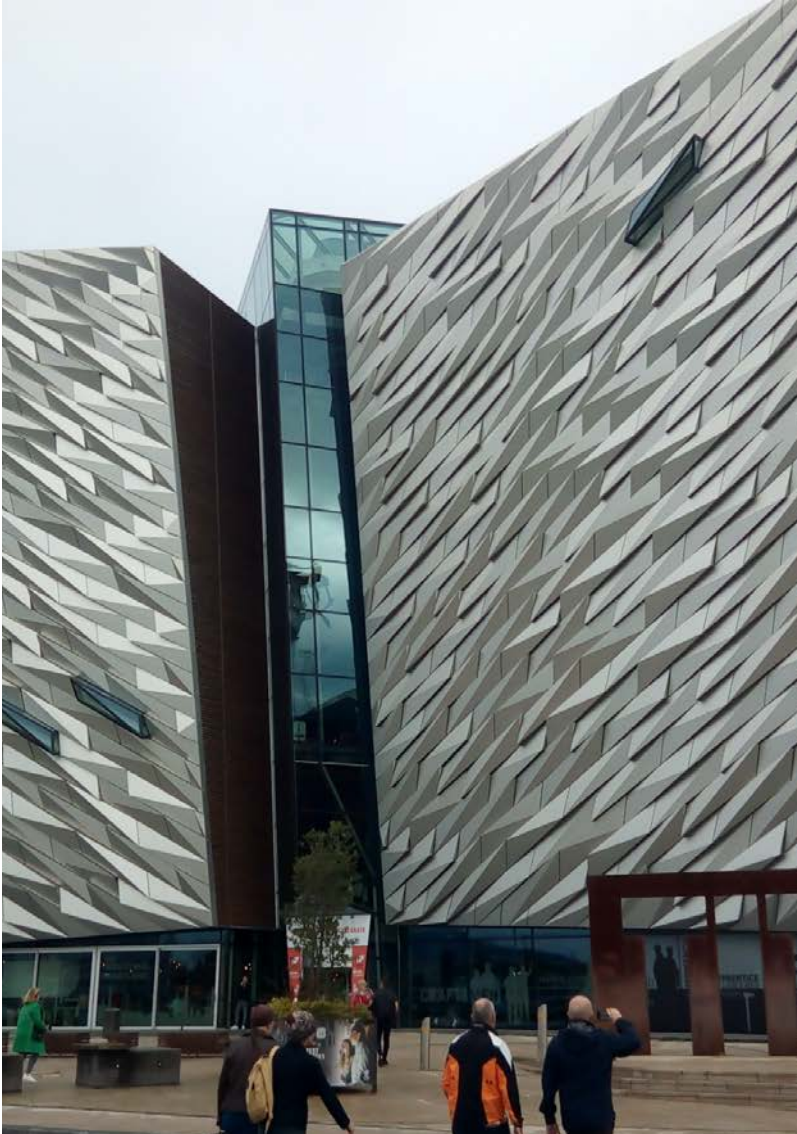
The giant sculpture is based on a character from the tale “The Boyhood deeds of Fionn”. The story tells of a fish that eats some hazelnuts that had fallen into the Well of Wisdom. After devouring the nuts, the salmon gained all the knowledge in the world. According to the tale, the first person to eat the salmon would then inherit all of its knowledge. According to local folklore, kissing the fish invokes wisdom.

Lagan Rivers Trust is dedicated to restoring water quality, clean water, and good river habitat to the river Lagan, all the tributaries and Belfast Lough, in a sustainable manner. The Trust aims to do this by working with local communities, businesses, government agencies, and all water users including anglers, canoeists, farmers and landowners.

Sustainable Fish Cities Northern Ireland is an ambitious campaign by Ulster Wildlife and Nourish NI to create Northern Ireland’s first-ever Sustainable Fish Cities in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. Any business or organisation that serves fish, from restaurants and retailers to hospitals and education establishments, can get involved by committing to buy, serve, eat, and promote fish from sustainable sources.

This stop also links with sustainable development goals numbers 6 and 14, Clean Water and Sanitation and Life Below Water.

[The big fish](#)



*Titanic Quarter – Regeneration*

## **Titanic Quarter – Regeneration**

ADDRESS: Queens Rd, Belfast BT3 9DT



The Belfast Quarters are zones within the city used to encourage tourism and urban regeneration. They are not mathematical “Fourths” but neighbourhoods which reflect a special character, style and history.

The Titanic Museum, opened in 2012, to mark the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. The building is emblematic of the ship's bows. The museum is an international tourist attraction that has environmental protection as one of its main priorities. Decontaminated shipyard spoil was used to raise surface levels above projected sea level rise. Key efficiencies surrounding water and energy contribute to the resilience of buildings against extreme weather influenced by climate change.

Education is a main focus of the Titanic Quarter and Belfast Met is one of the largest further education colleges in the UK & Ireland, providing a wide range of courses to 5,000 full time and c.10,000 part time students. It is focused on the needs of existing and potential employers in the area, working closely with Titanic Quarter and Government to ensure that students have the right skillset.

This stop links with sustainable development goals 4,8 and 9, Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

Are there any more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that we could claim for Belfast and Northern Ireland?

[www.titanicquarter.com](http://www.titanicquarter.com)



## Referring partner:



## Interacting

20 Hallcroft Close, Billingham,  
Stockton-on-Tees - Cleveland, TS23 1QN - England, UK  
Ph.: +44 785 5543 262  
Mail.: [hello@interacting.info](mailto:hello@interacting.info)

[www.interacting.uk.com](http://www.interacting.uk.com)

## Project:



## Green Routes

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### **KA204 - Strategic Partnerships for adult education**

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<http://greenroutes.eu>