



**BRITISH  
ECOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

## **BES Annual Meeting 2019**

10 – 13 December 2019, Belfast, UK

### **Attendees' Pre-meeting Information Pack**



[www.britishecologicalsociety.org/events/annual-meeting-2019/](http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/events/annual-meeting-2019/)

[#BES2019](https://twitter.com/BES2019)

## ABOUT BELFAST

Belfast is the capital and largest city of Northern Ireland, standing on the banks of the River Lagan on the East coast of the island. Belfast blossomed from very humble beginnings when it started out as a small hamlet with fertile land along the mouth of the River Lagan. Soon, marauders and pirates realised the lough was deep and the shores were safe from the North Atlantic storms - the perfect haven for repairing sea-ravaged ships. From these early stages the industrious locals developed a boat-building trade, and the rest is history.

Today, Belfast is packed with history, culture, exciting events, great food and shopping. It was the birthplace of the RMS Titanic, which famously struck an iceberg and sank in 1912. This legacy is recalled in the renovated dockyards' Titanic Quarter, which includes the Titanic Belfast, an aluminium-clad museum reminiscent of a ship's hull, which this year will host the BES2019 Conference Dinner. Sightseers can also visit the shipbuilder Harland & Wolff's Drawing Offices and the Titanic Slipways, which now host open-air concerts.

The city also inspired the Chronicles of Narnia and Gulliver's Travels, and let's not forget it's the land of Game of Thrones!

We are delighted to be using the [ICC Belfast](#) as our venue. For more information on Belfast, please see the [Visit Belfast](#) website.

## TRAVELLING TO BELFAST

### By Air

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#### **George Belfast City Airport**

[Belfast City Airport](#) is just 3 miles from Belfast city centre. Flybe, Aer Lingus, British Airways, KLM and Eastern Airways all fly to and from Belfast City Airport.

The Translink Airport Express 600 bus service runs between the airport and Belfast city centre, around every 30 minutes. The journey takes around 20 minutes and costs £2.60 if you pay in cash.

#### **Belfast International Airport**

[Belfast International Airport](#) is a 30-minute drive from Belfast city centre. EasyJet, Ryanair, Jet2 and Wizz Air all fly to and from this Airport.

The Translink Airport Express 300 bus service runs between the airport and Belfast city centre, as often as every 20 minutes during peak hours. Tickets are around £7 for a single and the journey takes just under 1 hour to central Belfast.

There is also a taxi rank at the entrance. It takes about 25 minutes to get into the city by taxi.

### By Sea

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Belfast is easily accessed by sea, with crossings from Scotland, England and the Isle of Man. Travel by superfast ferries with journey times from just 2 hours.

Car passengers arriving at [the Port of Belfast](#) should follow signs for the city centre, which is only a short drive away from all terminals. Foot passengers [can take the Metro Bus](#) or a 10 minute taxi ride.

Check out the [Belfast Harbour website](#) for general ferry and shipping enquiries.

## Ferries

[Stena Line](#) (travelling from Liverpool and Cairnryan)

*This line often has deals where kids go free!*

- From Liverpool (England), the ferry takes around 8 hours and costs upwards of £350 for a return in a small car with two passengers, and £60 on foot for one passenger.
- From Cairnryan (Scotland), the ferry takes around 2 ½ hours and costs upwards of £400 for a return in a small car with two passengers, and £60 on foot for one passenger.

[P&O Irish Sea](#) (travelling from Cairnryan – Larne)

- From Cairnryan (Scotland), the ferry takes around 2 hours and costs upwards of £350 for a return in a small car with two passengers, and £55 on foot for one passenger.

## TRAVELLING WITHIN BELFAST

Belfast is a compact city, so getting around is easy on foot, by bike or by taxi. The conference venue, [ICC Belfast](#), is also easily accessed from the city centre.

### Walking

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Belfast is easy to walk around. Walking from one side of the city centre to the other only takes about 20 minutes. The Titanic Quarter is a little further, at around 30 minutes from the City Hall, however if the weather is good this can be a lovely walk along the river.

Many of the main hotels within Belfast are located close to Victoria Street Station, which is around a 15-minute walk on a straight road to the ICC.

### Bus

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Metro is the main bus service for all of Belfast. The Metro Network has 12 high frequency corridors along the main arterial roads into the city centre and additional services operating throughout the greater Belfast area.

There are a number of buses that go from Belfast City Hall (central Belfast), directly to the ICC. These run every 5 minutes or so, and take around 10 minutes: **4c, 4d, 4e, 6a, 31, 78, 79**.

Ulsterbus provides all bus services across Northern Ireland (except for Belfast city services, which are operated by Metro) with 25 passenger facilities operating day-to-day services at a local level.

All buses require tickets to be purchased in advance, via a ticket machine, or by cash only on the bus.

### Belfast 'Just Eat' Bikes

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[Rental bikes](#) are available at 46 docking stations across the city, providing a low cost, convenient way to travel. You can register as an annual or casual subscriber with a pay-as-you-go option available. Cost is around £6 for three days or £1 an hour for casual use. The first 30 minutes of each trip is free!

Bikes are available from outside the ICC Belfast and in the areas surrounding Belfast City Hall.

## Tickets & Passes

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The Belfast Visitor Pass (per one/two/three days = £6.50/£11/£14.50) allows unlimited travel on bus and train services in Belfast and around, and discounts on admission to Titanic Belfast and other attractions. You [can buy these online](#) and at airports, main train and bus stations, the Metro kiosk on Donegall Square, and the Visit Belfast Welcome Centre.

## Venue Address

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ICC Belfast  
2 Lanyon Place  
Belfast  
BT1 3WH  
Northern Ireland

## Location

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ICC Belfast is conveniently located within a 10-minute walk of the city centre. The entrance is located beside the River Lagan, overlooking picturesque views of the river. This entrance is aptly named the Riverside Entrance.

## Car Parking

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ICC Belfast is located within the heart of the city centre, which offers visitors access to a wide range of car parking facilities within walking distance of the venue.

### Belfast City Car Parking

- [APCOA Parking Lanyon Place](#) - The car park is surrounded by shopping centres, places to eat and located just 100 metres from ICC Belfast.
- [The Hilton Belfast](#) - The Hilton Belfast multi-storey car park is just a 4-minute walk to ICC Belfast. The current hourly rate for the car parks within Lanyon Place and the Hilton is £2.50.

Special rates are available for evening parking in both Lanyon Place and Hilton car parks. Park between 5.30pm and midnight and pre-pay £7.50 for your stay.

## THINGS TO DO IN BELFAST

We're proud to be working with Visit Belfast. For more ideas on things to do in Belfast, download ['Top Ten Things to do in Belfast'](#).

### Belfast Zoological Gardens

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Home to more than 140 species of animal, many of which are endangered in their natural habitat, [Belfast Zoo](#) is one of the oldest visitor attractions in Northern Ireland. The zoo has been open since 1934, and is now a leading and award-winning visitor attraction, with more than 300,000 visitors each year.

### W5 at Odyssey

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W5 is an award-winning science and discovery centre based at the Odyssey Complex in Belfast's Titanic Quarter. [W5 at Odyssey](#) is a science and discovery centre, not a museum, so visitors of all ages are free to let their imagination fly through more than 250 hands-on, permanent exhibits in four incredible exhibition areas: Discovery, Go, See, and Do.

### Botanic Gardens

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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 Gardens', the site contained exotic tree species and impressive plant collections from the southern hemisphere, many of which can still be seen in the park. Access is free.

### CS Lewis Square

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Rediscover 'The Chronicles of Narnia' with a walk through [CS Lewis Square](#), a public space commemorating the Belfast born author C.S. Lewis. Featuring seven bronze sculptures from 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' including Aslan, The White Witch, Mr Tumnus, The Beavers, The Robin and The Stone Table, it is a stunning display of public art. The [JACK Coffee Bar](#) is located on the ground floor of EastSide Visitor Centre on C.S. Lewis Square, offering coffee and treats as well as a selection of 'food to go'.

### Belfast Christmas Market

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From Saturday 16 November until Sunday 22 December you can explore [Belfast's Christmas Market](#) outside the beautiful Belfast City Hall. With a huge selection of tasty continental treats and local produce ranging from French crêpes to Giant bratwursts, the market is set to have something for everyone. Open from 10:00 – 22:00.

### Ulster Museum

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The [Ulster Museum](#) is home to a rich collection of art, history and natural sciences, and is free to all visitors. The museum tells the story of the people of the North of Ireland, from earliest times to the present day. Impressive galleries and interactive discovery zones bring history, science and art collections to life for visitors of all ages.

## PLACES TO EAT IN BELFAST

Northern Ireland's culinary heritage has its roots in the staple diet of generations of farming families; bread and potatoes. Traditional foods include stews, pies, black and white pudding, soda farls, potato cakes, scones and soda bread. Irish stew originated from the old ways of cooking over an open fire. The authentic recipe calls for mutton, potatoes and onions, but nowadays most people use lamb, carrots and pearl barley. Today, Belfast hosts an array of restaurants, from fine dining, brasseries and bistros to gastro pubs, cafes, coffee shops, and of course fish and chips!

### Avoca

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The Arthur Street Café at [Avoca Belfast city centre](#) is a great spot to chill out in between shopping and sightseeing. Spacious with an eclectic vintage style, it features freshly prepared favourites from Avoca's award-winning menu. Including signature baking and locally sourced seasonal ingredients.

### Benedicts of Belfast

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Located in a central hotel, [Benedicts of Belfast](#) offers great food, casual dining, and a kids' menu.

### Bobbin

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[Bobbin](#) café serves coffee and traditional food in Belfast City Hall (one of Northern Ireland's most iconic buildings) and is located in the centre of Belfast. Operated by Loaf Catering and Cafes, the café provides 15 training and work experience places each week for people with a learning disability, autism or Asperger's. All profits go to its parent organisation NOW Group, a social enterprise supporting people with learning difficulties and autism in jobs with a future.

### Bright's Restaurant

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Situated on the High Street, [Bright's Restaurant](#) is right in the heart of Belfast city centre, within easy reach of all the main shopping and sightseeing attractions. It serves traditional Irish food such as fish and chips, as well as vegan/veggie options and a kids' menu.

### City Picnic

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[City Picnic](#) is a relaxed, classic diner-style restaurant, offering gluten free and vegetarian options as well as a kids' meal. Great for a quick meal on the go.

### Fratelli

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[Fratelli Ristorante](#), Pizzeria & Bar Belfast oozes rustic Italian charm with a contemporary edge in the heart of Belfast city centre, with a 'Little Boars' menu just for the kids.

### Ryan's Belfast

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[Ryan's bar](#) is popular with locals and students, and is family friendly venue with kids eating FREE on Saturdays and Sundays!

### Buba

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[Buba](#) is casual, bright restaurant, serving classic Eastern Mediterranean cuisine, tapas style, with many veggie options & a vegan menu.

## REGISTRATION TIMES

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Tuesday 10 December   | 09:00 – 10:00<br>13:00 – 14:00<br>14:00 – 19:30 |
| Wednesday 11 December | 08:00 – 19:00                                   |
| Thursday 12 December  | 08:00 – 19:00                                   |
| Friday 13 December    | 08:00 – 13:30                                   |

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW & PRESENTER GUIDELINES

### Presenter Guidelines

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For those of you presenting either a talk or a poster, [please read the guidelines](#) on the conference website carefully before preparing your presentation.

### Meeting Overview

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You can download the [Meeting Overview from the conference website](#), which outlines the timings for all four days at the conference.

Download the [Session Overview](#), for the date, time, and location of all oral sessions and workshops.

## SPEAKER UPLOAD

The Speakers' Area is located in the Riverside Registration Area, under the escalators, and will be open during the following hours:

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Tuesday 10 December   | 14.00 – 17.00 |
| Wednesday 11 December | 08.00 – 17.00 |
| Thursday 12 December  | 08.00 – 17.00 |
| Friday 13 December    | 08.00 – 13.00 |

The speaker area is fully equipped for speakers to hand in and review their presentations. To ensure that the presentations are well prepared, speakers should bring their presentations to the upload area at least 2 hours before their presentations. Technical staff will be on hand to help with any issues.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Welcome Mixer

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The Welcome Mixer takes place on Tuesday 10 December in the Exhibition Hall (Hall 1) at the ICC from 18:30 – 20:30.

### Science Slam

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The Science Slam also takes place on Tuesday 10 December, at [The Black Box in central Belfast](#), from 20:30 onwards.

### Poster Session 1

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Poster Session 1 will take place in the Exhibition Hall on Wednesday 11 December from 18:00 – 19:30.

### SIG Socials

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From 19:30 onwards on Wednesday 11 December, SIG socials will be taking place, so please check the programme for the times and places of each of the events from our 19 SIGs. Please bear in mind that there is also a SIG social on Thursday morning, so you may be able to attend more than one event. SIG socials are also not necessarily in the venue, so please check details in the programme.

### Christian Ecologists Breakfast

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On Thursday 12 December from 08:00 – 08:45, there will be a Christian Ecologists breakfast held in Boardroom 1. This is an opportunity for Christian ecologists of all denominations to gather and share their enthusiasm for the natural world, and the role of their faith.

### Poster Session 2

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Poster Session 2 will take place in the Exhibition Hall on Thursday 12 December from 17:30 – 19:00.

### LGBTQ+ Mixer

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From 19:00 – 20:00 on Thursday 12 December the LGBTQ+ Mixer will take place in room 2A. This aims to be a fun, informal event where you can chat and network over a drink in a welcoming and inclusive setting.

### Conference Dinner

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The Conference Dinner this year will take place at [Titanic Belfast](#), located at 1 Olympic Way, Queen's Road BT3 9EP, a 24-minute walk from the ICC, or a 15-minute bus ride (G2 Bus). This is a ticketed event, and all tickets must be purchased in advance of the dinner. If you have not already purchased a ticket, you will be able to purchase tickets at the Information Desk at registration. **Conference badges must be worn in order to gain entry to the Titanic Belfast.**

### Final day – Christmas Day

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On the last day of the meeting (Friday 13 December) we invite you to start celebrating the holidays with Christmas Day! We encourage you to come to the meeting in festive attire (jumpers, ties, tinsel, and reindeer antlers – whatever takes your fancy) and tweet a photo of yourself to #BES2019. There will be a prize allocated to the best Christmas outfit!



## ATTENDEE INFORMATION

### Wi-Fi

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Complementary Wi-Fi is provided throughout the ICC. Turn on your Wi-Fi Settings, connect to ICC Free Wi-Fi, open a browser and add your email address to access free Wi-Fi.

### Mobile Phones

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As a courtesy to speakers and other delegates, we ask that **all mobile phones and electronic devices be changed to silent mode before entering any session.**

### Conference App

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All abstracts can be accessed via our Annual Meeting app.

**Access the App via your Phone:** Check your email for an invitation message from the BES CrowdCompass app. Click *Download the App* to be taken to the App Store. Click *Download* and wait for the app to install itself on your device. Once installed, open your invitation email again. Click *Verify Account*. Click *Open App* to complete the verification via your new mobile app.

**Access the App via the Web:** Check your email for an invitation message from the BES CrowdCompass app. Open your invitation email on the device that you plan to use at the event. Tap *Verify Account*. Click *mobile web browser* to complete the verification via the Online Event Guide.

You can also access this at: <https://event.crowdcompass.com/bes2019> Password: **BES2019**

### Social Media

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All attendees are encouraged to join the discussion via social media, so please use the hashtag #BES2019 to ensure that you are part of the conversation.

We understand that some people will not want their research broadcast. We respect that, so have created a 'do not share' image for people [to download on our website](#) and add to their poster talk or presentation. We hope that fellow attendees will also respect the request and refrain from sharing the talks or posters who show the image. If people do not include this image on their presentation, we will assume that they are happy for their research to be shared.

### Photography

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There will be a photographer present for part of the event, and the photographs taken may be used for promotional purposes; if you have any concerns or queries regarding this, please come and see us at the Information Desk.

### Badges

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For security purposes, please wear your name badges at all times within the ICC. If your badge is lost, a new badge may be issued for a cost of £5. We recommend that delegates continue to wear their badges at the social events as well, and if attending the conference dinner **badges must be worn in order to gain entry to the Titanic Belfast.**

## **Cloakroom**

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The cloakroom can be found opposite registration at the Riverside Entrance. This will be complementary and will be open for the duration of the meeting, but will close 30 minutes after the last event of the day finishes. Please be aware that queues for the cloakroom can be long after the final plenary closes on the final day.

## **First Aid**

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Should you require first aid assistance during the meeting, please contact a BES team member who will be able to guide you to an appointed first aider.

## **Families**

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For those of you with children, we have a family room located in Boardroom 3. This room will contain a microwave, fridge and kettle. There will be an area for breastfeeding, but breastfeeding is of course permitted wherever you wish! Please feel free to bring toys to use in this area. It is your responsibility to ensure children are accompanied by an adult at all times.

## **Contemplation Room**

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The CEO Room on Level 3 is a dedicated contemplation room, which can be used for prayer. The contemplation room can also be used for those that may need a moment to pause and reflect. Please do not use this room for working and ensure that all electrical items are switched off/to silent when using this space.

## **Childcare**

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We are very pleased to offer Childcare at our Annual Meeting. This will be located in Boardroom 3. To be sure of a place you must book in advance, however any spaces not pre booked will be available on a first come first served basis at the event. Crèche Tickets can be purchased at the Information Desk. Please note, childcare is not available for the lunch period, so parents/carers are responsible for collecting their children and for providing their lunch.

## **Lost Property**

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Please hand in lost property to the Information Desk, where it will be made available for collection.

## **Smoking Policy**

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Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the venue.

## **Security**

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In the event of an emergency the ICC staff will guide you to safety. There will not be any fire alarm tests during the meeting, therefore any fire alarm is the real thing.

If at any point in the meeting you have any questions or require assistance, please contact a member of the BES staff either at the BES stand or the registration area, or any of our helpers – who can be identified by their purple 'Help Is Here' t-shirts.

## **Currency**

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Belfast uses the Pound Stirling.

## **Electricity Voltage**

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220 - 240 Volts, Type G electrical plug with three rectangular prongs.

## **Time Zone**

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Belfast is currently within GMT (Greenwich Mean Time).

## **Insurance & Liability**

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It is recommended that participants arrange their own personal health, accident and travel insurance. The meeting organisers will not accept liability for personal injury or loss/damage to property/belongings of participants or accompanying persons, before, during or following the meeting, on tours or during your stay in Belfast.

## **Disclaimer**

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All the best endeavours will be made to present the programme advertised. However, the BES reserves the right to alter or cancel, without prior notice, arrangements, timetables, plans or other items relating directly or indirectly to the Annual Meeting, for any cause beyond its reasonable control. The BES is not liable for any loss or inconvenience caused as a result of such cancellation. Delegates are advised to take out their own travel insurance and extend their policy to cover personal possessions as the BES does not cover individuals against cancellation of bookings or theft or damage to belongings. Tours run by third parties may be subject to cancellation should the minimum numbers not be achieved.

## **Food & Refreshments**

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Your registration includes refreshments at the welcome mixer on Tuesday evening, tea/coffee and lunch on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and drinks at both Poster Sessions.

Tea/coffee and lunches will be served in the main Exhibition Hall (Hall 1) during the designated refreshment breaks. Please refer to [the meeting overview](#) for exact times.

If you have a specific dietary requirement (apart from vegetarian and vegan) please head to the Dietary Requirements station in the Exhibition Hall, where a host can help you locate your lunch. Please ask a member of the ICC staff or BES staff to show you the location.

We do our best to ensure that the meeting produces as little packaging as possible within the constraints of the caterers. Please note, due to health and safety regulations at the venue all gluten-free bread and snacks will be served in individual packages.

## **Plenary Lectures**

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All Plenary lectures will be delivered in Auditorium. Questions to plenary speakers will be asked via Twitter.

## TOURS: SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER

All tours take place on Saturday 14 December. If you have booked onto a tour in advance of the meeting, you will be sent the relevant information via email. Your ticket will be located in your name badge. If you have any questions please ask a member of BES staff at the Information Desk at registration.

### **Giant's Causeway and Game of Thrones Tours**

**Tour time: 09:00 – 18:00**

Meet outside the Hilton Hotel, Lanyon Place (next to the ICC) by 08:45. Coaches will be here to pick you up **and will leave promptly at 09:00.**

You do not need to pay anything additional to visit the famous stones at the Giant's Causeway or to visit Carrick-a-Rede Ropebridge. However, if you wish to cross the Ropebridge or enter the Giant's Causeway visitor centre at Giant's Causeway to learn more, there is a National Trust fee.

The tour company offer an exclusive Fast Track Combo Ticket for Carrick-a-Rede Ropebridge crossing & Giants Causeway Visitor Centre entry that can be purchased on the coach, on the day of your tour for £15. This **must be paid in cash.**

There will be a stop on the tour at a local pub where delegates can purchase lunch. Alternatively please provide your own packed lunch.

You will be dropped back to the Hilton Hotel by 18:00.

### **Belfast Botanical Gardens**

**Tour time: 1 hour beginning at either 10:15 or 12:15**

Your name badge ticket will indicate which tour you are booked onto. Please arrive at the entrance of the Botanical Gardens 10 minutes before the start time of your tour.

### **History Walking Tour**

**Tour time: 10:00 – 12:00**

Please meet your guide, Marti Molloy, in front of City Hall outside the main gates at 09:50 – the tour will begin at 10:00.

Your guide will be wearing a **blue checked backpack** and since it's Christmas, red boots!

The tour will finish at Titanic Belfast at 12:00.

### **Political Black Taxi Tour**

**Tour time: 10:00 – 11:45**

Meet outside the Hilton Hotel, Lanyon Place (next to the ICC) by 09:45 where a black taxi registered to Belfast Tours (Black Taxi Tours) will pick you up. The tour will begin at 10:00.

## CONTACT

If you have any questions leading up to the conference please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Events Team: [events@britishecologicalsociety.org](mailto:events@britishecologicalsociety.org)