Northern Ireland Holidays and Festivals

Northern Ireland holidays are mainly celebrated in the capital Belfast. Events _____ from sports and music to somewhat controversial loyalist marches. St. Patrick's Day, the Orangefest, and Belfast Festival all offer something a little different. Most take place in May when the weather is nice and everyone is in good _____.

1) St. Patrick's Day

Ireland's patron saint is celebrated in Northern Ireland on March 17 _____ he is in the south. Don't forget, they are Irish here, too (not British), only, generally, with a penchant of separation from the south. People dress up in green, fountains are _____ green, and there are parties in the streets. Head to Downpatrick to visit St Patrick's grave.

2) Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival

This alternative festival in Belfast, early- to mid-May, is especially popular with the younger crowd. It features art, theater, and music through big name acts at _____ within the historic arts quarter of the capital. The event goes over about 10 days and is good for all the family.

3) Balmoral Show

The Balmoral Showgrounds in Belfast is the _____ for Ireland's main food and agricultural event. It takes place in mid-May over three days and is fun for the whole family, with hundreds of stands, _____ show jumping, sheep-shearing, and a zone for kids to have fun.

4) Lord Mayor's Carnival

The colourful street carnival is the _____ of this quirky event in Northern Ireland, which celebrates the end of the Lord Mayor's tenure in late May. Expect floats, lots of dressing up - including the mayor in all his regalia plus gold _____ - and big fireworks.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5) Belfast Marathon

The 26-mile run goes via the streets of Belfast and draws in thousands of _____ from around the world. The Belfast Marathon takes place at the end of May and also features a shorter, 16-mile fun run, _____ a grand party at City Hall.

6) Orangefest

This controversial event on July 12 ('The Twelfth') dates from the 1700s and features waves of 'Orange Men' _____ through city streets across Northern Ireland. These Orange Men are Protestant (loyalists) marking their allegiance to William III (William of Orange) of England and there is lots of flag _____. Naturally, tensions among the Catholic community can be high and security is typically heavy. Best seen in Belfast.

7) Féile an Phobail

The 'West Belfast Festival' is one of Europe's largest community festivals, featuring thousands of local children in a huge _____ on Falls Road in Belfast. Big music acts, poets, and comedians _____ the event, which takes place over 10 days in early August.

8) Belfast Festival

The Belfast Festival is a massive event attracting around 50,000 _____ with theatre, dance, pop and rock music, classical music, visual arts, and comedy. The event goes over two weeks, late October through early November, and is _____ travelling to Northern Ireland for if you're in the UK/Irish region.

Answer the questions by writing the corresponding number in the boxes.

Which is a summer event? ☐ ☐

At which can you find stalls? ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Which attracts participants from different countries? ☐

Which showcases the arts? ☐☐☐

Which is celebrated on the whole island of Ireland? ☐

Which lasts the longest? ☐

Which represents a farewell to a government official? ☐

Which has a longer and a shorter event? ☐

Which is the oldest event? ☐

For which do people wear costumes? ☐☐

At which can you see farm animals? ☐

Which may spark off disturbances? ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS