

OFFALY

IRELAND'S HIDDEN GEM

HERITAGE IN OFFALY



Photo of Birr Castle Demesne ©Chris Hill



Ireland's Hidden
HEARTLANDS

www.visitoffaly.ie

OFFALY

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HERITAGE IN OFFALY

DAY 1



EDENDERRY HERITAGE TRAIL

Explore the historic town of Edenderry with the free downloadable audio guide that leads you through all the sites of this picturesque town.

TIME: 1hr **H** **C** **O**

LUNCH IN TULLAMORE

The Old Warehouse, the original home of Tullamore D.E.W., is surrounded by history and memorabilia.



TULLAMORE D.E.W.

Visit the Tullamore D.E.W. Distillery Experience in the new-state-of-the-art working distillery. Not just for whiskey lovers, this 105 minute 'behind the scenes' tour is so informative and fun!

TIME: 1hr 45 mins **C** **H**



ST MANCHAN'S SHRINE

Boher's Roman Catholic Church has a most extraordinary shrine associated with St. Manchan of Lemanaghan on permanent public display. The shrine is a 12th century gabled box of yew wood and bronze, which contains the relics of the Saint himself.

TIME: 15 mins **H** **C** **O**



CLONMACNOISE

One of the most famous monastic sites in Ireland, Clonmacnoise was founded in the 6th century by St. Ciarán. The visitors centre offers tours and an audio-visual presentation to help explore this special sacred site overlooking the majestic River Shannon.

TIME: 1hr 30 mins **H** **C** **O**

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©Chris Hill

SHANNONBRIDGE

The [Shannonbridge Fortifications](#) are marvellous Napoleonic Fortifications dating back to 1810. They now house a free exhibition, River Café and Gift Shop as well as a self-guided tour around the fort.

TIME: 30 mins **H** **C** **F** **O**



BIRR THEATRE AND ARTS CENTRE

Birr Theatre and Arts Centre host a variety of concerts, shows, films, exhibitions, and events throughout the year. Book your stay to coincide with a magical evening at this historic theatre which dates back to 1888!

H **C** **F**

STAY OVERNIGHT IN BIRR

Hotel options include [Dooly's Boutique Hotel](#) or the four star [County Arms Hotel](#). For a more intimate feel, experience the true Irish comfort in the award winning [Ardmore Country House](#), Kinnitty.

DAY 2



KINNITTY

This picturesque village is home to a unique pyramid. Built in the 1830's as a burial tomb, it is an exact replica of the Egyptian pyramid of Cheops. Whilst here, why not take a stroll in the [Slieve Blooms](#) and discover one of it's many looped walks.

TIME: 15 mins - 1hr 30 mins **H** **F** **O**



LEAP CASTLE

Arguably Ireland's most haunted castle. Dating back to the early 1500's Leap has a turbulent and bloody history. It's owner Sean offers visitors access to his home, if you dare!

TIME: 1hr **H** **C**

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DAY 2



BIRR

Ramble the quaint streets of this Georgian town with the help of the [Birr Fan Trail](#). This trail commemorates 27 remarkable people and places from this heritage town's fascinating history: all famous, or infamous, in their day.

TIME: 1hr

H F O

LUNCH IN BIRR

Take your pick from several lovely eateries and coffee shops in Birr: [Emma's Café](#), [Kelly's Bar](#), [The Thatch](#), [Woodfield Café](#), [The Stables](#).



© Fáilte Ireland

BIRR CASTLE DEMESNE

Birr Castle Demesne is steeped in history. The castle has been the family home to the Parson's for 400 years and castle tours are available in peak season. There's so much more to see on the demesne; the great telescope, science centre, 50 hectares of parklands, 10km walking trails, formal gardens, waterfalls, rivers and lakes. Take a guided tour or explore on your own - it's up to you!

TIME: 2hrs 30 mins

H C F O A



VICTORIA LOCK/MEELICK WEIR

A half hour from Birr will have you transported to the historic Meelick Wier on the River Shannon. Originally built in the 1840's the weir has been recently restored and spans over 300m across the mighty Shannon. The adjacent Victoria Lock, also from the 1840's, is of great architectural and technical interest.

TIME: 1hr

H F O

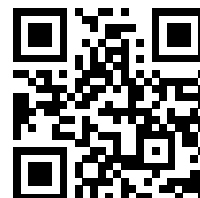
FIND OUT MORE

[Offaly History](#) can assist you in learning more about the history of the area. They host exhibitions, lectures and have numerous publications available.

Let their genealogy service help you trace your family history within Offaly/Laois and become a proud Midlander!

If it's [Monastic Heritage](#) your after - look no further!

Take your pick from: Lemonaghan Early Christian Site, Killeagh, Rahan Monastic Site, Seir Kieran, Durrow High Cross, Kinnitty High Cross. Better still create your own trail and visit them all!



H HERITAGE
C CULTURE
F FAMILY
O OUTDOORS
A ACTIVE