

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BIRR AND COUNTY OFFALY, IRELAND

LOCATION: The pleasant town of Birr is located in County Offaly, in central Ireland. The town is situated on the River Camcor, a tributary of the River Shannon. The landscape is generally flat to gently rolling. Elevations are about 250 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:11	9:49	11:50	13:57	15:49	16:52	16:25	14:47	12:46	10:40	8:45	7:41
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:40	2:22	3:13	4:35	5:30	4:56	4:12	4:17	3:40	2:43	2:05	1:30
AREA OF BLUE SKY	26%	26%	31%	32%	29%	26%	25%	26%	32%	28%	31%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	22°	26°	25°	28°	32°	39°	43°	41°	35°	30°	25°	23°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	35°	36°	37°	39°	43°	48°	52°	51°	48°	44°	38°	37°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	45°	47°	50°	54°	60°	65°	67°	66°	62°	57°	50°	47°
HIGH FOR MONTH	54°	55°	60°	64°	71°	75°	76°	74°	71°	65°	58°	54°
FROSTY MORNINGS	20%	18%	11%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	11%	13%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	88%	82%	76%	69%	67%	69%	73%	74%	78%	83%	87%	89%
DRY DAYS	29%	36%	37%	45%	46%	45%	40%	36%	42%	36%	34%	31%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	70%	74%	74%	73%	73%	73%	71%	68%	69%	66%	67%	69%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.52	0.42	0.35	0.33	0.39	0.38	0.49	0.53	0.52	0.54	0.51	0.53
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.2"	3.7"	2.4"	1.0"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	0.5"	2.0"
SNOWY DAYS	11%	10%	7%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	8%	10%	8%	7%	6%	4%	5%	5%	6%	8%	10%	10%

COMMENTS: Like all of Ireland, Birr has a temperate marine climate. Summer days are long, cloudy, mild to cool, and generally wet. Winter days are short, cloudy, cold and raw, and even wetter. Snow flurries and snowfalls are common, but rain is even more common. Hence, the ground is rarely snow-covered past noon of the next day. Birr is the home of Birr Castle, the estate of the Earls of Rosse, and occupied by them for some fourteen generations. The grounds are open most days, but the Castle may only be seen by relatively large groups with substantial advance notice. A major feature of the estate is the Birr Telescope. Its 72-inch reflector made it the world's largest telescope from 1845 through 1920. The telescope is being restored, and may be seen from late May through early September. The town itself is very attractive, with many homes and shops several centuries old and still in use. There is a nice riverside walk, and the ruins of Old St. Brendan's Church supposedly date to the 6th century.