

Top things to see and do in

# OFFALY

visitoffaly.ie

## BIRR CASTLE DEMESNE

The award-winning Gardens of Birr Castle Demesne in Ireland are both rich in amazing feats of science and engineering as well as rare trees and flowers, wonderful wildlife, and walks along peaceful rivers and the lake. The Parsons family invite you to explore one of the most extraordinary places in Ireland. Created over generations it is an environmental and scientific time capsule.

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



## CLONMACNOISE

This sixth century monastic site, located on the banks of the River Shannon is home to three high crosses, a cathedral, seven churches and two round towers. This great monastery was founded in 548- 9 by St. Ciarán and the strategic location of the monastery at a crossroads between the major east - west land route, through the bogs of central Ireland and the River Shannon helped it become a major centre of religion, learning, craftsmanship and trade by the 9th century.

[www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/clonmacnoise](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/clonmacnoise)



## TULLAMORE DEW

You don't have to be a whiskey drinker to enjoy a trip to the Tullamore D.E.W. Old Bonded Warehouse. Situated on the banks of the Grand Canal, the distillery's original Bonded Warehouse was the last place the whiskey would rest; the final leg on its journey before being shipped up the canal for distribution around the world. But where the casks moved on, the history remained.

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



## LOUGH BOORA DISCOVERY PARK

Previously a commercial bog where peat was harvested to heat homes around the country, today Lough Boora Discovery Park is home to countless species of birds and wildlife, fish-filled lakes and a permanent exhibition of huge outdoor sculptures. Created using the old industrial materials of the bog such as locomotives, rail-line and timber, all crafted into magnificent works of art. The park can be explored by bike or walking.

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



## THE SLIEVE BLOOM MOUNTAINS

The Slieve Bloom mountains offers something for everyone; from the experienced hiker to the casual stroller. Whether you take on the long-distance Slieve Bloom Way or opt for one of the shorter looped trails, you'll be rewarded by spectacular views. For the more adventurous try the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trails, a network of purpose-built single-track trails and forest roads that are designed for use by mountain bikes on waymarked circular routes.

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## CRUISING ON THE RIVER SHANNON

If you like the idea of setting your own course and choosing when and where to stop off and explore, then a cruising trip along the Shannon could be just the ticket. Start your riverside adventure in Banagher and cruise on one of the finest natural inland waterways in Europe, as the unspoilt River Shannon meanders through beautiful countryside, past historic towns offering the best in Irish hospitality.

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## GOLF

Offaly is home to the 2019 Open champion Shane Lowry and also home to six wonderful golf courses providing a challenging and enjoyable experience for golfers of all levels. The James Braid designed Tullamore Golf Club and the Christy O'Connor Jnr course at Esker Hills are in the capital town. Castle Barna is nestled along the banks of the Grand Canal in Daingean with Portarlington, Birr and Edenderry located either end of the county.

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## FAMILY FUN

Whether it's adventure or activities with a more relaxed feel for your family, Offaly has a surprisingly wide range of places to visit and hidden gems to explore. From water sports to pet-farms, off-road cycling to play centres and treehouse adventures; your only challenge will be trying to fit them all in!

[www.visitoffaly.ie](http://www.visitoffaly.ie)



## CLARA BOG

Clara Bog is one of the best remaining examples of a relatively intact raised bog in Western Europe. Experience ten thousand years of history in the ten square kilometers that accommodate Clara Bog and its surroundings. This refers to the influence that the last Ice Age had on the Irish landscape. You can learn all about its importance at the fabulous visitor center and then experience it for yourself with a stroll on the boardwalk.

[www.clarabognaturereserve.ie](http://www.clarabognaturereserve.ie)



## CASTLES & HERITAGE

Previously known as 'King's County', Offaly preserves a rich tradition and heritage of castles. Prepare to immerse yourself in the county's diverse landscape with high crosses, round towers, spectacular outdoor sculptures and medieval castles. Visit Ireland's most haunted castles in Leap and Charleville or stop-off at Clonony Castle that was seized by Henry the 8th, or treat yourself to an overnight stay in Kinnitty Castle.

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## GRAND CANAL

The Grand Canal Greenway is an historic trail which traverses Leinster from Dublin City to the River Shannon at Shannon Harbour in west Offaly. The route is punctuated by canal locks, lock houses and industrial architecture from bygone days. Visitors can explore and enjoy the Canal by bike, boat, walking or fishing.

[www.visitoffaly.ie](http://www.visitoffaly.ie)

