

Mykidstime Family Guide to Offaly



Welcome to the Mykidstime Guide to Offaly. We have put together some suggestions to make your family's visit to Galway as enjoyable as possible. As parents ourselves, we are delighted to share with you some of the family friendly spots round our favourite city in the West of Ireland! Visit www.mykidstime.ie for lots more suggestions for things to do while you are in Galway

The Mykidstime Team

Our Top Ten Things to do in Offaly

1. [Birr Castle Demesne](#) and Science Centre contains a giant telescope, a science centre, parks, gardens and a cafe.
2. [Lough Boora Parklands](#) is reclaimed bog land, has guided tours, a number of walks and a sculpture park. [Hire a bike](#) or walk and explore and take a picnic. (FREE)
3. [Clonmacnoise Monastic Site](#) - pictured above. One of the most important monastic sites in Ireland has an interpretive centre and is in an idyllic setting.
4. [Take a cruise](#) to Clonmacnoise from Banagher on the River Queen in July and August.
5. [Hire a canoe](#) or two and explore the Shannon from Banagher. Hourly, daily and weekly camping options available.
6. Get together a group of family or friends and take a trip on "[Saoirse ar an Uisce](#)" an inland waterways passenger boat from Tullamore Harbour.
7. Visit [Belmont Mill Water Mill](#) and Studios.
8. Visit [Birr Theatre and Arts Centre](#).
9. If the weather is wet and miserable go to an indoor play centre, [Jumping Jacks](#) in Tullamore that also has a bowling alley.
10. At the time of going to press the Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre was closed for renovation. We will update this when it reopens.

Some Indoor Suggestions for Offaly



- Check out Carlow's local libraries for details of activities & events for families during the year.
- Go swimming at Aura Tullamore Leisure Centre, Birr Leisure Centre, Clara Swimming Pool or Edenderry Swimming Pool all indoor seated pools
- Jumpin' Jacks Fun Factory, Tullamore is an Indoor Activity Centre with Bowling or stop by Tons of Fun, Edenderry for lots of indoor activity fun
- Take in a movie at Tullamore Omniplex Cinema
- Visit Birr Theatre & Arts Centre for art and fun



Family Walks in Offaly

Family walks are a great way to get out with the kids and there are many beautiful places to walk around Offaly from wooded trails, bog walks, parks and canal walks, so you are sure to find something to suit you. Have fun spotting wildlife, collecting leaves/acorns/chestnuts or bring a picnic. Here are a few of the most popular. Remember the snacks, drinks, camera and weather gear. Visit www.coillte.ie for information and detailed maps for wooded walks and way marked trails.

- Charleville Castle Grounds, Tullamore. Located on the Birr Rd. No entry free. Wheelchair accessible and family friendly.
- Tullamore Town Park. Buggy and wheelchair accessible.
- There is a towpath trail on the Grand Canal from Tullamore to Edenderry. Strolls or short walks on sections are recommended for families.
- [Lough Boora Parklands](#) have three main walks, a Farmlands Walk, Mesolithic Walk and Sculpture Walk. Family friendly.
- [Birr Castle Demesne](#) contains 120 acres of landscaped gardens and parkland with walking paths. There is an entry fee but it's highly recommended.

Coillte Forest and Wood walks with waymarked trails

- Durrow Abbey, Tullamore. Take the N52 Tullamore/Kilbeggan road for 5km to Durrow cross roads. Turn left for 1 km and entrance is on the right.
- Garryhinch, Portarlinton located on the R423 between Portarlinton and Mountmellick. Looped walks adjoining the river Barrow. Picnic benches. The walk spans the border of Laois/Offaly.
- Glasderry Wood, near Roscrea. From Roscrea town, take the N62 Birr road. After 5km, take the first right turn after the pitch and putt course. At the next T-junction turn left, and continue for a further 1.4km. The car park and picnic area is on the left hand side. This is part of an old estate and contains an artificial lake. Picnic benches. Walk is easy and takes 30 mins.

Some more Outdoor Suggestions for Offaly

- Explore Birr Heritage town and wander around the Camcor town park.
- Visit the Pyramid in Kinnity.
- Explore the Slieve Bloom mountains, the scenery and views are fantastic.
- Take a walk in the Charleville Castle demesne.
- Visit Leap Castle – one of the three haunted castles in Offaly!
- Clara Bog Visitor Centre is well worth a visit.



Where to Stay

Tullamore Court Hotel

Tel: + 353 (0)57 9346666

Fax: + 353 (0)57 934667

Email: res@tullamorecourt.ie

Web: www.tullamorecourthotel.ie

4* hotel located in Tullamore. Leisure facilities include a 20 metre swimming pool & kiddie's pool.

Kids Club & Crèche.

Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore

Tel: + 353 (0)57 9325600

Lo Call: 1850 312 312

Fax: + 353 (0)57 9325690

Email: info@bridgehouse.com

Web: www.bridgehouse.com

4* hotel centrally located in Tullamore. The Sanctuary Spa and Leisure club includes an indoor swimming pool and outdoor hydrotherapy pool.

The County Arms Hotel

Moorpark,

Birr

Co Offaly

Tel: +353 (0)91 20791

Fax: +353 (0)91 21234

Lo Call 1850 869 463

Email: info@countyarmshotel.ie

Web: www.countyarmshotel.com

4* hotel with a range of family rooms. The Springs Leisure Club has a 20 m pool and a kid's pool. Kids Club every Mid-term and Summer months.



Where to Eat

All the hotels mentioned above have restaurants that provide children's menus. There is a wide selection of restaurants in Tullamore, Birr and Edenderry and many places to have a meal in some of the smaller towns and villages.

Particularly family friendly places:

- Siroccos in Tullamore where there is the "KidsSizeMe" menu.
- Cafe4U in the Bridge Centre Shopping Centre
- Chocolate Brown on the Bridge St
- Jamie's restaurant on Main St
- The Thatch in Birr
- Galleria in Tullamore and Edenderry



Playgrounds

- Lloyd town park in Tullamore - and skate park
- Birr playground – and skate park
- There are playgrounds in these places in Offaly as well:
 - Shannonbridge, Shinrone, Kilcormac, Edenderry, Shannonharbour, Banagher and Ferbane



Shopping

Many of the large chains are represented in Portlaoise; Dunnes Stores, Penneys, Tesco, Lidl and Aldi.

Bridge Centre Shopping Centre in the centre of town has Dunnes Stores and Balcony Books and a Café 4U.

- Byrne's World of Wonder has a good stock of children's toys.
- Kelly's Toymaster also has a good stock of children's toys and nursery furniture.
- Balcony Books in the Bridge Centre has a good selection of children's books and art supplies.

Other Useful Information

Where can we park?

- There is a car park behind the Bridge Centre Shopping Centre
- There is free car parking at the shopping centres with a 2 hr limit.

Where can we change baby?

You can change baby in these places:

- Bridge Centre - Tullamore
- Dunnes Stores Shopping Centre - Tullamore

Where are public toilets located?

- The Square, Tullamore

The shopping centres have toilet facilities.

All towns have pubs and most are accommodating.

Tourist Information

- The Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre, Tullamore (closed at time of going to press for renovation).
- Clonmacnoise Monastic Site.

We hope that you found this Visitor Guide to Offaly to be useful. For further information, visit www.mykidstime.ie or email offaly@mykidstime.ie