

Summer in Ireland

Unlike other countries, summer begins in Ireland on 1st May each year and finishes on 31st July. This is because the Irish calendar is based on four pagan celebrations: Samhain, Imbolc, Bealtine and Lúnasa. In the UK, the USA and many other countries, summer lasts from June to September.

Irish Weather in the Summer



Ireland has a temperate climate. This means it doesn't get extremely cold or extremely hot. Instead, the winter months are generally mild. It is very rare to see heavy snow. In the summer, the weather gets warmer and the average temperature is around 18-20°C. The

weather in Ireland can be very changeable. During the summer, Ireland gets more daylight than in the winter. In June and July it is bright for almost 18 hours. The longest day of the year is at the end of June each year and is known as the 'summer solstice'.

Plants and Animals

Many animals hibernate and many birds migrate from Ireland during the colder winter months. During the summer, Irish wildlife is at its most active. Foxes, squirrels, badgers and bats can be found all across Ireland.

Honeybees are busy collecting pollen to make honey during the summer months and dragonflies can be seen near rivers and lakes. Summer is also the season for butterflies and the small copper and the peacock butterfly are commonly spotted.



During the summer, baby birds begin to leave their nests. Swallows return to Ireland from Africa. They return to the same nesting place each year. They lay eggs and raise their young before departing again for the colder winter months.

The Irish countryside is decorated by many species of wildflowers, including daisies, clover, buttercups, foxgloves and honeysuckle.



What Do People Do in Ireland during the Summer?

Children get their summer holidays at the end of June in Ireland. There are generally lots of things to do in Ireland during the summer. Many art and music festivals are held during the summer months. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is generally held during August and is a week dedicated to celebrating Irish music and culture.

When the weather is warm, Irish people flock to its beautiful beaches to enjoy the weather because it might not last too long!



Questions

1. Why does the Irish summer arrive a month before summer in the UK and the USA?

2. When does the Irish summer begin and end?

3. Explain what a temperate climate is.

4. Describe the weather in Ireland during the summer.

5. What kind of wild animals can be found during the summer?

6. What do honey bees do during the summer?

7. Explain what the swallow does when the summer arrives?

8. Name three types of wildflowers mentioned in the piece above.

9. What is the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann?

10. Why do you think people flock to the beaches during summer?
