

# Summer in Ireland

Summer in Ireland lasts for three months (May, June and July). It begins on May Day which is the 1<sup>st</sup> May each year. It ends on 31<sup>st</sup> July. It comes after spring and before autumn.



## Irish Weather in the Summer

The weather in Ireland is very mild. This means it doesn't get too cold or too hot. In the winter, the weather gets colder but it is rare to see heavy snow. During the summer, the days get warmer but it doesn't usually get hotter than 20°C. In June and July it is light for almost 18 hours each day. It only gets dark after 11 p.m.

## Plants and Animals

In winter, many animals in Ireland go into a deep sleep called hibernation. Lots of birds leave Ireland for warmer countries during winter. However, 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 in Ireland.



During the summer, the Irish countryside is decorated by many different kinds of wildflowers, including daisies, clover and buttercups.

## What Do People Do in Ireland During the Summer?

Children get their summer holidays at the end of June. 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.



# Questions

1. When does the Irish summer begin and end?

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2. What season comes before summer? What season comes after summer?

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3. Describe the weather in Ireland during the summer.

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4. What time does it get dark during the summer?

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

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6. What do honeybees do during the summer?

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7. What kind of wild flowers are found during the summer?

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8. What is the celebration held in August, dedicated to Irish music and culture called?

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# Answers

1. When does the Irish summer begin and end?  
**The Irish summer begins on 1<sup>st</sup> May and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> July.**
2. What season comes before summer? What season comes after summer?  
**Spring comes before summer. Autumn comes after the summer.**
3. Describe the weather in Ireland during the summer.  
**The weather in Ireland is mild. The temperature usually stays at around 20°C.**
4. What time does it get dark during the summer?  
**During the summer, it gets dark after 11 p.m.**
5. What kind of wild animals can be found during the summer?  
**Answers could include: foxes, squirrels, badgers, bats, honeybees, dragonflies and butterflies.**
6. What do honeybees do during the summer?  
**During the summer, honeybees collect pollen to make honey.**
7. What kind of wild flowers are found during the summer?  
**Daisies, clover and buttercups can be found during the summer.**
8. What is the celebration held in the summer dedicated to Irish music and culture called?  
**The celebration held in the summer dedicated to Irish music and culture is called Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.**

# Summer in Ireland

Unlike other countries, summer begins in Ireland on 1<sup>st</sup> May each year and finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> July. This is different to the UK and USA.



## Irish Weather in the Summer

Ireland has a temperate climate. This means it doesn't get too cold or too hot. Winter is usually very mild in Ireland. It is very rare to see heavy snow. In the summer, the weather gets warmer, normally between 18-20 °C. The weather in Ireland can be very changeable even in the summer. During the summer, Ireland gets more daylight than in the winter. In June and July, it is bright for almost 18 hours each day. It only gets dark after 11 p.m. The longest day of the year is at the end of June and is known as the summer solstice.

## Plants and Animals

During the colder winter months, many animals in Ireland go into a deep sleep called hibernation. Lots of birds leave Ireland for warmer countries during these months also. This is called migration. However, during the summer, Irish wildlife is at its most active.



Honeybees, butterflies and dragonflies can also be seen. Honeybees fly from flower to flower collecting pollen to make honey.



The Irish countryside is also decorated by many different kinds 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. However, 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 the summer and is a week dedicated to celebrating Irish music and culture.



# Questions

1. When does the Irish summer begin and end?  

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2. Explain what a temperate climate is.  

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3. Describe the weather in Ireland during the summer.  

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4. How many hours of daylight are there during June and July?  

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5. Why is it not common to see wild animals in Ireland during the winter?  

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

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7. What do honey bees do during the summer?  

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8. What kind of wild flowers are found during the summer?  

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9. When do children get their summer holidays?  

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10. What is the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann?  

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# Answers

1. When does the Irish summer begin and end?  
**The Irish summer begins on 1<sup>st</sup> May and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> July.**
2. Explain what a temperate climate is.  
**A temperate climate is a climate that doesn't get too hot or too cold.**
3. Describe the weather in Ireland during the summer.  
**The weather gets warmer during the summer, normally between 18-20 °C.**
4. How many hours of daylight are there during June and July?  
**There are 18 hours of daylight during June and July.**
5. Why is it not common to see wild animals in Ireland during the winter?  
**Many wild animals in Ireland hibernate during the winter.**
6. What kind of wild animals can be found during the summer?  
**Foxes, squirrels, badgers, bats, honeybees, butterflies and dragonflies can be found during the summer.**
7. What do honeybees do during the summer?  
**During the summer, honeybees fly from flower to flower collecting pollen to make honey.**
8. What kind of wild flowers are found during the summer?  
**You can find daises, clover, buttercups, foxgloves and honeysuckle.**
9. When do children get their summer holidays?  
**Children get their summer holidays at the end of June.**
10. What is the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann?  
**The Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is a festival which is dedicated to celebrating Irish music and culture.**

# Summer in Ireland

Unlike other countries, summer begins in Ireland on 1<sup>st</sup> May each year and finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> 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'.

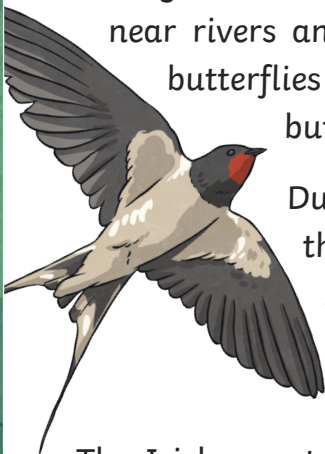
## Plants and Animals

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?

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2. When does the Irish summer begin and end?

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3. Explain what a temperate climate is.

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4. Describe the weather in Ireland during the summer.

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

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6. What do honey bees do during the summer?

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

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

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9. What is the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann?

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

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# Answers

1. Why does the Irish summer arrive a month before summer in the UK and the USA?  
**The Irish summer arrives a month before summer in the UK and the USA because the Irish calendar is based around four pagan celebrations.**
2. When does the Irish summer begin and end?  
**The Irish summer begins on 1<sup>st</sup> May and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> July.**
3. Explain what a temperate climate is.  
**A temperate climate is a climate that doesn't get extremely hot or extremely cold.**
4. Describe the weather in Ireland during the summer.  
**The weather gets warmer during the summer. The average temperature is around 18-20 °C. The days become longer. In June and July it is bright for almost 18 hours each day.**
5. What kind of wild animals can be found during the summer?  
**Foxes, squirrels, badgers, bats, honeybees, dragonflies, butterflies and swallows can be found during the summer.**
6. What do honeybees do during the summer?  
**During the summer, honeybees are busy collecting pollen to make honey.**
7. Explain what the swallow does when the summer arrives?  
**Swallows return to Ireland from Africa in the summer. They return to the same nesting place from the year before and lay new eggs. They raise their young in Ireland before returning to Africa for the winter months.**
8. Name three types of wildflowers mentioned in the piece above.  
**Answers to include three of the following: daisies, clover, buttercups, foxgloves or honeysuckle.**
9. What is the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann?  
**The Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is a festival dedicated to celebrating Irish music and culture.**
10. Why do you think people flock to the beaches during summer?  
**People flock to the beaches during summer to enjoy the weather because it might not last too long. This is because Ireland's weather is very changeable.**