

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE OASIS OF GHADAMES, LIBYA

LOCATION: Ghadames oasis is located in the northwestern part of Libya, right up against the border with both the tip of Tunisia and with Algeria. The town is situated in an oasis of date palms on the northern edge of the Hamada (“stony desert”) de Tinrhert. Elevations are about 1,200 feet above sea level. Known as the “Pearl of the Desert”, its “old town” is famous for its thick mud-brick architecture and its labyrinth of covered streets. It is a popular weekend destination from Tripoli, some four-hundred miles to the northeast. Mass-market tourism has thankfully passed it by.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:27	11:07	11:59	12:53	13:40	14:04	13:54	13:15	12:23	11:28	10:41	10:15
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:35	9:32	9:51	10:24	11:23	11:56	13:00	12:24	10:27	9:26	8:29	8:16
AREA OF BLUE SKY	76%	80%	77%	75%	75%	84%	97%	96%	86%	77%	75%	75%
LOW FOR MONTH	32°	34°	37°	46°	54°	63°	67°	66°	61°	50°	39°	33°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	40°	44°	50°	58°	67°	75°	75°	75°	70°	62°	51°	43°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	62°	68°	76°	86°	95°	104°	106°	104°	98°	88°	74°	64°
HIGH FOR MONTH	75°	83°	93°	103°	109°	115°	115°	112°	108°	102°	88°	77°
FROSTY MORNINGS	7%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	1%	6%	32%	67%	96%	99%	99%	85%	40%	2%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	38%	29%	25%	20%	17%	15%	14%	16%	19%	26%	33%	37%
DRY DAYS	96%	96%	97%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	97%	95%	96%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	0%	4%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	7%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 84% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a “low” of 79% in November, to a high of 94% in July and August. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to ° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 118° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 11° cooler than actual ones—especially during the summer months. Keep in mind that these are shade temperatures. Being in the direct sun can add up to 20° to the temperatures that you feel—and that your body has to deal with. About one day in five will have blowing sand. This is most common during the summer and spring, but occurs in every month. Contact lenses should not be worn under these conditions. Desert nights can also feel much colder than the thermometer suggests, due to the low humidity and the clear night skies. The Bedouin have a saying, “The stars make a thin blanket.”