

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE OASES OF SABHA AND THE FEZZAN, LIBYA

LOCATION: The Fezzan is the desert area of southwestern Libya, and the small town of Sabha is its chief town and transportation center (it has the airport). It is situated on the floor of the Wadi al-Hayat (Valley of Life) at an elevation of some 1,500 feet above sea level. To the north is the sand sea of Ubari. There are oases strung all along the highway, which connects a number of fertile oases in the Fezzan. Only Sabha and Ubari have much in the way of services or accommodations.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:39	11:14	12:00	12:48	13:28	13:49	13:40	13:06	12:21	11:33	10:51	10:29
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:54	9:41	10:16	10:32	11:02	11:52	12:31	12:11	10:18	9:40	8:51	8:28
AREA OF BLUE SKY	78%	80%	80%	76%	74%	85%	95%	96%	85%	78%	77%	75%
LOW FOR MONTH	34 °	36 °	42 °	47 °	55 °	64 °	66 °	65 °	62 °	54 °	42 °	35 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	41 °	46 °	53 °	61 °	68 °	75 °	74 °	75 °	71 °	64 °	53 °	44 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	64 °	71 °	78 °	88 °	96 °	102 °	100 °	100 °	97 °	89 °	78 °	66 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	78 °	85 °	93 °	103 °	108 °	112 °	110 °	108 °	106 °	99 °	90 °	79 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	5%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	1%	11%	45%	74%	96%	97%	99%	88%	47%	3%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	37%	32%	23%	22%	20%	18%	20%	23%	25%	26%	35%	39%
DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 85% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a “low” of 81% in December, to a high of 93% in August. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to ° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 114° on some spring or summer afternoon when the *ghibli* is blowing. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 6° cooler than actual ones in the shade, and up to 20° hotter than actual ones in the direct sun. The *ghibli* is a hot, dry wind from the southern desert that can drop the humidity and raise both temperatures and tempers to excessive heights. It can blow at any time of year, but is most common in the spring and early summer. It frequently carries dust and sand, and lasts for days at a time. One day in five is the annual average, while April and May will see rising sand on one day in three. Precipitation in the Fezzan is extremely variable from one year to another. Some years will get none at all, and some will get a downpour. Any amount of rain is considered a blessing in the desert, and the most likely fall is only a few drops.