

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO HUN AND THE JEBEL SAWDA, LIBYA

LOCATION: The Jebel Sawda (Black Mountains) separate Tripolitania, to the north, from the Fezzan, to the south. They are volcanic in nature, with lots of black basalt and obsidian to give validity to their name. They reach not quite 4,000 feet above the desert. Hun (“hoon”) is the chief of three oases at the northeastern foot of the mountains. Elevations there are some six to seven hundred feet above sea level. The oases are known collectively as Al-Jufra. The area is famous for its dates.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:31	11:09	11:59	12:52	13:36	13:59	13:49	13:12	12:22	11:30	10:44	10:20
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:46	9:36	10:11	10:33	11:11	11:59	12:42	12:17	10:21	9:35	8:43	8:20
AREA OF BLUE SKY	77%	80%	79%	76%	74%	85%	95%	96%	85%	78%	76%	75%
LOW FOR MONTH	27 °	30 °	33 °	39 °	47 °	56 °	59 °	60 °	56 °	46 °	37 °	29 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	38 °	41 °	46 °	53 °	60 °	67 °	67 °	67 °	65 °	58 °	49 °	41 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	66 °	71 °	77 °	85 °	92 °	100 °	99 °	99 °	95 °	87 °	78 °	68 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	79 °	85 °	94 °	104 °	109 °	113 °	111 °	109 °	107 °	100 °	90 °	81 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	24%	12%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	14%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	1%	10%	34%	59%	90%	95%	98%	78%	38%	5%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	46%	42%	36%	31%	29%	25%	28%	31%	32%	37%	40%	44%
DRY DAYS	96%	96%	96%	97%	96%	99%	99%	99%	98%	94%	96%	96%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.02
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	4%	5%	2%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 85% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a “low” of 81% in November and 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 ° on some afternoon when the *ghibli* is blowing. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 5° cooler than actual ones, due to the low humidity. 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. Hun is protected by the mountains to the south against many of these storms, but still gets from two to three dozen a year. February through May is the worst season. The fog shown in the tables is not widespread, but is confined mostly to the cultivated lands in the oases. Snow flurries are not unknown, but snowfalls are very rare.