

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BASRA AND THE SHOTT-EL-ARAB, IRAQ

LOCATION: Basra, Iraq's second largest city and major port, is located in the southeastern part of that country. The Shott-el-Arab is the name given to the combined flow of the conjoined Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The landscape around Basra is quite flat, the river having very little gradient. It is planted to millions of date palms, and produces most of Iraq's and a large part of the world's supply of dates. Although Basra is still more than eighty miles upstream from the Gulf, its elevation is only seven feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:26	11:06	11:59	12:54	13:41	14:05	13:55	13:15	12:23	11:28	10:40	10:14
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:09	7:50	8:03	8:14	9:40	11:00	10:33	10:40	10:03	9:13	7:39	7:06
AREA OF BLUE SKY	64%	68%	63%	64%	71%	92%	90%	92%	93%	81%	69%	63%
LOW FOR MONTH	36°	39°	44°	54°	65°	72°	75°	73°	65°	54°	43°	36°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	45°	48°	55°	65°	75°	81°	82°	80°	73°	65°	56°	47°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	65°	69°	77°	87°	97°	102°	105°	106°	103°	95°	80°	68°
HIGH FOR MONTH	74°	80°	88°	102°	110°	111°	115°	114°	112°	105°	91°	77°
FROSTY MORNINGS	5%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	4%	48%	90%	99%	100%	99%	99%	86%	10%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	52%	44%	38%	34%	34%	30%	28%	28%	33%	46%	58%
NEARBY WATERS	66°	64°	66°	70°	78°	83°	86°	89°	86°	84°	78°	71°
DRY DAYS	84%	68%	87%	92%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	96%	94%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	92%	91%	94%	96%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	97%	96%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.21	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.16	0.20
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	3%	4%	8%	8%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	7%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	9%	5%	1%	2%	3%	3%	5%	1%	3%	5%	6%	12%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 73% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 64% in April, to a high of 81% in September. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 34°, and the highest should be near 116°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones most of the year. However, during the heat of the July through September period they will be the same as actual ones, or perhaps a degree or two hotter. Severe dust and sand storms are common throughout the year, but especially during the summer months. Basra will get about thirty of these storms over the course of the year. They can wreak havoc with electronic equipment, fine machinery, and optical devices. Wearers of contact lenses should remove them during these storms, and not replace them until the air is completely free of visible dust.