

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO PETRA AND THE WADI MUSA, JORDAN

LOCATION: Petra, the ruined capital of the Nabatean (about 700 B. C.) kingdom, is located in southwestern Jordan. The ruins are scattered over the canyon bottoms and uplands along the Wadi Musa in the rugged tableland that borders the eastern side of the great Wadi Arabah depression . Elevations in the center of the area are in the neighborhood of 3,100 feet above sea level, but some of the upland sites can be as much as 500 feet higher.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:26	11:06	11:59	12:54	13:40	14:05	13:54	13:15	12:23	11:28	10:40	10:14
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:39	8:18	8:49	9:26	10:46	12:45	12:49	12:12	11:04	9:40	8:26	7:25
AREA OF BLUE SKY	68%	70%	70%	72%	79%	95%	98%	97%	96%	84%	76%	68%
LOW FOR MONTH	26 °	28 °	32 °	39 °	44 °	50 °	53 °	55 °	53 °	45 °	35 °	29 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	37 °	39 °	44 °	52 °	58 °	63 °	66 °	66 °	63 °	56 °	47 °	40 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	55 °	58 °	65 °	74 °	82 °	89 °	91 °	91 °	88 °	80 °	68 °	59 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	68 °	73 °	80 °	90 °	95 °	98 °	99 °	100 °	97 °	90 °	78 °	72 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	26%	14%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	13%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	4%	16%	44%	65%	69%	45%	5%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	43%	39%	33%	28%	24%	25%	24%	25%	26%	29%	37%	43%
DRY DAYS	91%	93%	93%	97%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	97%	92%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	98%	97%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.05
SNOWY DAYS	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%

COMMENTS: Petra has a desert variation of the Mediterranean three-season climate. Spring (March through May) sees the diminishing of the few rains that grace the area in the winter. Days are lengthening, skies are clearing (they were already quite clear), and temperatures are rising. Summer (June through September) is sunny, dry, and hot. The walls of the canyons (*wadis*) give some relief in the early part of the day, only to radiate the accumulated heat back during the late afternoon and early part of the night. Winter (October through February) sees a bit more cloud, and really starts with the first rain of the end of summer. Below-freezing temperatures do occur at this elevation, but not all that often. Temperatures drop rapidly after the sun sets, especially in the higher areas. Clear nighttime skies and low humidities favor rapid cooling. This cooler air, in turn, being heavier than warm air, rolls down the slopes and streams along the wadi bottoms. As a consequence of this cold air drainage, it is not unusual for the valley bottoms to have frost during the winter nights while the hilltops are frost-free.