

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO MADRID AND THE MESETA, SPAIN

LOCATION: Madrid, the capital of Spain, is located pretty much in the center of that country. The city is situated on the banks of the Manzanares River, in what is essentially high plateau country (the *meseta*). Elevations within the city are about 2,200 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:39	10:39	11:55	13:16	14:25	15:01	14:46	13:47	12:31	11:11	10:00	9:22
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:57	6:11	6:17	7:57	9:12	11:00	12:16	11:18	8:30	6:40	5:11	4:29
AREA OF BLUE SKY	49%	49%	50%	48%	48%	59%	73%	73%	59%	51%	48%	45%
LOW FOR MONTH	24 °	26 °	30 °	34 °	39 °	47 °	53 °	54 °	45 °	37 °	30 °	26 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	34 °	35 °	40 °	44 °	50 °	57 °	62 °	62 °	56 °	48 °	40 °	35 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	48 °	52 °	58 °	64 °	71 °	81 °	88 °	87 °	79 °	66 °	55 °	49 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	58 °	62 °	70 °	77 °	84 °	92 °	97 °	96 °	90 °	77 °	65 °	58 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	47%	35%	17%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	15%	40%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	18%	59%	51%	18%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	71%	63%	56%	51%	50%	42%	34%	35%	46%	57%	66%	71%
DRY DAYS	72%	69%	67%	69%	70%	80%	90%	91%	79%	73%	68%	69%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	88%	86%	89%	84%	86%	93%	96%	97%	93%	88%	84%	85%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.22	0.27	0.28	0.30	0.26	0.21	0.07	0.07	0.23	0.31	0.34	0.27
SNOWY DAYS	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	2%	4%	9%	14%	10%	8%	8%	3%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	26%	19%	9%	3%	3%	0%	0%	3%	3%	6%	15%	23%

COMMENTS: Madrid has a four-season year. Spring (mid-March through mid-May) brings lengthening days and renewed vegetative growth. Summer (mid-May through the end of September) is a season of sun, heat, and dust. Autumn (October through mid-November) sees shortening days and the first frosts. Winter (mid-November through mid-March) means short days, freezing temperatures and cold rains. The shimmering of the surface air due to intense heating during the summer combines with the wind-swept dust of that dry season to create a gray haze called, *calina*. This haze distorts the landscape and often obscures the view. Clear skies and calms during the cooler months produce strong temperature inversions, with the denser cooler air staying close to the ground. This can result in nighttime and early morning fog. This fog usually (but not always) burns off by noon.