

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE AIX-EN-PROVENCE AREA, FRANCE

LOCATION: The pleasant small city of Aix-en-Provence (usually shortened to Aix, and pronounced much like “X”) is located in the region of Provence in southeastern France. The city is situated in the hills about a dozen miles north of the Mediterranean port of Marseille. Elevations vary, but are in the neighborhood of 700 to 800 feet above sea level.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 9:22 | 10:29 | 11:54 | 13:24 | 14:41 | 15:22 | 15:05 | 13:59 | 12:34 | 11:04 | 9:45 | 9:02 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 4:37 | 5:39 | 6:51 | 8:19 | 9:25 | 10:52 | 11:53 | 10:33 | 8:28 | 6:25 | 5:02 | 4:18 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 48% | 49% | 49% | 50% | 51% | 59% | 72% | 67% | 59% | 51% | 47% | 48% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 18° | 16° | 27° | 33° | 40° | 47° | 50° | 51° | 45° | 37° | 28° | 19° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 31° | 34° | 37° | 42° | 49° | 55° | 58° | 58° | 53° | 46° | 40° | 33° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 52° | 53° | 59° | 65° | 72° | 79° | 86° | 85° | 78° | 68° | 58° | 54° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 59° | 64° | 68° | 73° | 81° | 87° | 95° | 91° | 85° | 76° | 67° | 63° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 41% | 34% | 18% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 15% | 35% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 4% | 19% | 16% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 67% | 61% | 55% | 53% | 52% | 51% | 45% | 47% | 54% | 62% | 67% | 70% |
| DRY DAYS | 72% | 71% | 74% | 75% | 76% | 80% | 90% | 84% | 80% | 74% | 73% | 71% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 89% | 87% | 86% | 86% | 87% | 89% | 95% | 92% | 89% | 83% | 84% | 86% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.20 | 0.27 | 0.32 | 0.33 | 0.30 | 0.26 | 0.13 | 0.20 | 0.32 | 0.52 | 0.46 | 0.32 |
| SNOWY DAYS | 2% | 2% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% |
| THUNDER DAYS | 1% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 6% | 9% | 6% | 9% | 8% | 6% | 3% | 2% |
| FOGGY DAYS | 7% | 8% | 7% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 5% | 4% | 9% | 10% | 9% | 7% |

COMMENTS: Aix has a mid-latitude four-season year. Spring runs from March through early May, is the second-rainiest time of year, and features changeable weather. Summer continues on from the middle of May through the end of September. It is sunny, hot, and fairly dry. Autumn starts with the first heavy rains of October, and extends to the end of November. It is the wettest time of year. Warm spells and cold spells alternate, with the cold spells growing longer and more frequent. Winter takes in the months of December through February, and is not a bad season by the standards of the rest of France. It displays frequent spells of sunny and mild weather. The *mistral* is a violent cold wind from the northwest which is quite common in this area--especially in the winter and spring. Its strength and persistence are legendary. Older farmhouses often have no doors or windows in the north and west exposures, gardens are sheltered by belts of cypress and high walls, and isolated trees are tilted to the southeast.