

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ARLES AND THE CAMARGUE, FRANCE

LOCATION: Arles and the Camargue are located in southern France. The Camargue is the grassy alluvial plains of the delta of the Rhone River. It is famous as a breeding area for fighting bulls. The city is situated at the northern tip of the Camargue, on the Grand Rhone (the main distributary of that river), about thirty miles upstream from its outlet in the Gulf of Lyon. Elevations are everywhere close to sea level. The bullfighting season runs from Easter into September. In the Camargue version, the bull is not killed.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:21	10:28	11:54	13:24	14:42	15:24	15:06	14:00	12:34	11:04	9:44	9:01
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:31	5:31	6:31	8:08	9:16	10:29	11:36	10:12	8:07	6:15	4:50	4:14
AREA OF BLUE SKY	44%	46%	45%	46%	48%	54%	68%	62%	54%	48%	44%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	22 °	22 °	27 °	34 °	41 °	48 °	53 °	52 °	46 °	35 °	29 °	25 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	37 °	38 °	41 °	45 °	52 °	58 °	63 °	63 °	59 °	52 °	44 °	39 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	51 °	53 °	58 °	63 °	70 °	78 °	84 °	83 °	78 °	69 °	59 °	53 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	62 °	64 °	68 °	74 °	81 °	88 °	93 °	91 °	86 °	77 °	68 °	63 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	27%	20%	6%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	19%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	20%	15%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	58%	58%	55%	56%	51%	45%	50%	54%	60%	64%	67%
NEARBY WATERS	55 °	55 °	55 °	56 °	61 °	66 °	69 °	71 °	69 °	65 °	60 °	56 °
DRY DAYS	70%	71%	71%	76%	75%	79%	88%	83%	79%	74%	73%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	87%	87%	85%	86%	86%	89%	94%	90%	87%	83%	83%	86%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.25	0.25	0.35	0.34	0.38	0.24	0.15	0.27	0.40	0.55	0.49	0.32
SNOWY DAYS	3%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	3%	3%	5%	8%	9%	8%	12%	10%	7%	4%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	9%	6%	8%	6%

COMMENTS: The region has a four-season year typical of the northern Mediterranean coast. Summers are long, very sunny, hot, and fairly dry. Winters are short, still fairly sunny, cool to cold, and fairly wet. The heaviest rains come in October, then steadily diminish in number and intensity into Spring. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition, with warm spells and cool spells alternating across the calendar. Early morning mists are common throughout the year, with true fog on occasion during the winter months. Very strong cold dry winds (the *mistral*) blow down the Rhone from the northwest all year around, but especially in the winter. They have been measured at more than eighty miles per hour, and have been known to blow trains off their tracks in the Rhone Delta.