

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO CARCASSONNE AND *LE PAYS CATHAR*, FRANCE

LOCATION: Carcassonne is located in the Languedoc region of southwestern France. The city is situated on the Aude River, at the eastern terminus of the Canal du Midi, which connects it with Toulouse. Elevations are some 400 feet above sea level. Immensely popular with tourists, Carcassonne boasts the largest city fortifications in all of Europe. Although complete with more than fifty towers, more than a mile of ramparts, and all kinds of medieval ornamentation, the old Cité is largely of quite recent restoration. The old city was one of the strongholds of the Cathar (Albigensian) religious movement, whose adherents practised a form of Christianity that favored purity, honest, and poverty. They were completely obliterated by the last crusade in the thirteenth century.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:23	10:30	11:54	13:23	14:40	15:20	15:03	13:58	12:33	11:05	9:47	9:04
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:33	3:28	5:28	5:37	6:07	7:44	8:54	7:00	5:52	4:26	3:03	2:17
AREA OF BLUE SKY	25%	30%	32%	30%	32%	39%	50%	45%	40%	34%	28%	23%
LOW FOR MONTH	23 °	23 °	29 °	33 °	41 °	47 °	52 °	51 °	45 °	35 °	29 °	27 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	36 °	36 °	41 °	45 °	51 °	56 °	61 °	61 °	57 °	49 °	42 °	38 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	48 °	52 °	57 °	62 °	69 °	76 °	82 °	81 °	75 °	66 °	56 °	50 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	61 °	65 °	70 °	75 °	82 °	90 °	94 °	91 °	86 °	77 °	67 °	61 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	27%	23%	9%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	19%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	15%	10%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	74%	66%	62%	59%	59%	56%	53%	57%	60%	64%	70%	75%
DRY DAYS	54%	54%	56%	54%	56%	66%	73%	70%	69%	63%	57%	54%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	80%	80%	79%	76%	77%	83%	88%	86%	85%	80%	79%	78%
DRY HOURS	88%	89%	89%	88%	92%	95%	97%	97%	95%	93%	89%	87%
LIKELY SNOWFALL	2.5 "	2.2 "	0.7 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.6 "	1.5 "
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	8%	8%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	1%	3%	3%	6%	8%	10%	10%	6%	2%	0%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	12%	12%	11%	10%	6%	6%	4%	6%	10%	11%	15%	11%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 41% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 25% in December, to a high of 59% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 19°, and the highest should be near 95°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. The climate is intermediate between that of the Mediterranean shorelands and that of the interior of France. However, the dry summers of the Mediterranean are missing here, although June through September is the least rainy time of year.