

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO DIGNE-LES-BAINS AND THE MARITIME ALPS, FRANCE

LOCATION: Digne-les-bains (Dignes, to almost everyone) is located in southeastern France. The town is situated in the foothills of the Maritime Alps on the eastern bank of the Bleone River. Elevations are in the neighborhood of 2,000 feet above sea level, with the nearby mountains rising to just under 8,000 feet. The town is noted for the thermal springs that give it its name, and as a center in the production of lavender (harvest in late summer). The spas are usually open from the middle of February through the middle of December. You may be required to get a certificate from a physician to take advantage of them.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:18	10:27	11:54	13:26	14:45	15:27	15:09	14:02	12:34	11:03	9:42	8:58
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:43	5:42	6:56	7:36	8:03	9:03	10:14	9:01	8:07	6:36	4:53	4:36
AREA OF BLUE SKY	46%	45%	46%	44%	44%	50%	66%	60%	55%	52%	46%	49%
LOW FOR MONTH	17°	18°	24°	33°	39°	44°	48°	48°	41°	33°	26°	21°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	30°	33°	36°	42°	48°	54°	56°	55°	50°	42°	37°	32°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	46°	50°	56°	63°	70°	76°	81°	79°	72°	62°	54°	47°
HIGH FOR MONTH	56°	62°	66°	72°	79°	85°	88°	87°	82°	71°	63°	56°
FROSTY MORNINGS	83%	70%	47%	22%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	41%	69%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	54%	49%	41%	39%	43%	45%	40%	42%	49%	51%	54%	57%
DRY DAYS	71%	70%	72%	69%	62%	63%	75%	73%	73%	72%	67%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	87%	84%	84%	83%	79%	81%	89%	86%	85%	80%	78%	85%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.25	0.39	0.44	0.36	0.52	0.36	0.18	0.29	0.37	0.73	0.70	0.41
LIKELY SNOWFALL	15.0"	19.2"	17.6"	4.8"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	2.1"	14.9"	18.7"
SNOWY DAYS	27%	27%	18%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	12%	21%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	2%	4%	12%	24%	24%	21%	10%	4%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	24%	23%	13%	13%	10%	4%	0%	10%	2%	11%	11%	18%

COMMENTS: Digne has a four-season year that is intermediate between the long winters of the high Alps up the valleys, and the long summers of the Mediterranean down the valley. Summer runs from late May through the end of September. It is sunny and warm, occasionally hot, and the driest time of year. Winter extends from late November through late March, and is cold, snowy, and fairly sunny. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition, alternating between warm and cool spells. They are better noted for their obvious changes in vegetative phenomena, than for anything distinct in the way of weather. The valley fogs are most noticeable in the morning hours, and usually (but not always) burn off before noon. Higher up the surrounding slopes, the air is clear and you can look down on the top of the fog layer.