

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO LA ROCHELLE AND THE BAY OF BISCAY, FRANCE

LOCATION: The resort town of La Rochelle is located in west-central France. It is situated on the Atlantic coast near the northern end of the Bay of Biscay. A lively town, it sees fewer foreign tourists than Biarritz to the south, relying mostly on middle-class French families and university students for the bulk of its summer visitors. Elevations, of course, are everywhere close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:05	10:19	11:53	13:32	14:57	15:43	15:24	14:11	12:37	10:59	9:31	8:43
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:59	4:02	5:48	7:40	8:21	9:27	9:17	8:43	7:15	5:10	3:42	3:02
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	34%	39%	43%	41%	47%	51%	52%	47%	40%	36%	34%
LOW FOR MONTH	20 °	26 °	31 °	35 °	42 °	49 °	53 °	52 °	47 °	38 °	30 °	27 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	38 °	39 °	42 °	45 °	51 °	57 °	60 °	61 °	57 °	51 °	44 °	40 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	47 °	49 °	55 °	59 °	65 °	70 °	74 °	74 °	71 °	63 °	54 °	49 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	55 °	59 °	65 °	72 °	80 °	86 °	90 °	88 °	82 °	74 °	64 °	58 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	22%	16%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	18%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	83%	77%	71%	67%	67%	67%	65%	66%	68%	73%	80%	84%
NEARBY WATERS	51 °	49 °	50 °	53 °	57 °	62 °	65 °	66 °	65 °	62 °	56 °	53 °
DRY DAYS	46%	49%	54%	57%	60%	62%	69%	66%	58%	57%	49%	46%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	78%	79%	79%	78%	80%	81%	86%	83%	78%	76%	73%	75%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.39	0.36	0.31	0.30	0.32	0.28	0.26	0.27	0.41	0.53	0.54	0.49
SNOWY DAYS	3%	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	4%	5%	6%	4%	2%	2%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	22%	22%	13%	13%	10%	10%	10%	9%	17%	17%	20%	19%

COMMENTS: The area enjoys a marine version of the standard mid-latitude four-season year. The prevailing winds are from the west, off of the North Atlantic Ocean. They keep summer temperatures from getting as hot as they do farther inland, and also keep winter temperatures from getting as cold. Summer afternoons are generally warm, with a few hot days and a few chilly ones as the various frontal systems move in from the ocean to pass across Europe. Winter afternoons are cold and raw, but below-freezing temperatures in the afternoons are very rare. Frosty mornings are associated with the outbreaks of polar air that put the rest of Europe in the deep-freeze from time to time during the winter months. The waters of the Bay are a bit too cool for the tastes of most Americans, but the Europeans are used to a great deal worse. Even if you never go in the water, the town offers many festivals during the summer months. Its university attracts many young people, and the area around the university is a lively one.