

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE MARSEILLE METROPOLITAN AREA, FRANCE

LOCATION: Marseille, France's second-largest city and its major seaport, is located in the southeastern part of the country. The city is situated on the Mediterranean Coast just east of the delta of the Rhone River, and just west of the French Riviera---whose climate it largely shares. Elevations within the city are everywhere within a few hundred feet of sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:23	10:29	11:54	13:23	14:40	15:21	15:04	13:58	12:34	11:05	9:46	9:03
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:38	5:39	6:51	8:19	9:24	10:51	11:52	10:32	8:28	6:26	5:02	4:19
AREA OF BLUE SKY	48%	49%	48%	49%	50%	58%	72%	66%	58%	50%	46%	47%
LOW FOR MONTH	24°	26°	29°	36°	43°	49°	55°	54°	47°	38°	30°	25°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	37°	37°	40°	44°	49°	55°	61°	62°	60°	55°	47°	41°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	52°	53°	57°	61°	68°	75°	81°	83°	80°	72°	63°	56°
HIGH FOR MONTH	61°	64°	68°	74°	82°	88°	92°	91°	86°	77°	69°	63°
FROSTY MORNINGS	29%	22%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	20%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	15%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	60%	56%	54%	53%	50%	46%	48%	54%	60%	65%	68%
NEARBY WATERS	55°	55°	55°	56°	61°	66°	69°	71°	69°	65°	61°	57°
DRY DAYS	73%	74%	76%	77%	77%	84%	92%	87%	81%	74%	74%	69%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	87%	88%	88%	87%	88%	92%	97%	93%	88%	83%	84%	85%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.30	0.28	0.29	0.32	0.30	0.17	0.09	0.17	0.40	0.56	0.48	0.37
LIKELY SNOWFALL	1.8"	1.2"	0.6"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	1.3"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	3%	3%	4%	6%	8%	5%	10%	9%	8%	4%	3%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	5%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	5%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 63% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 48% in December, to a high of 79% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 22 on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 94 on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the cooler months, and pretty much the same as actual ones is the warmer weather. The *mistral*, a violent cold wind from the northwest is characteristic of the lower Rhone Valley and the Gulf of Lions. It is most common and at its most violent in the winter and spring months, but can occur in any month of the year. Such is its force and persistence (it may blow for days at a time), that local farmhouses often have no doors or windows in the northern and western walls. The contorted trees and shrubs in Van Gogh's paintings of the area accurately reflect the reality rather than the artist's admittedly vivid imagination.