

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CENTRAL IONIAN ISLANDS, GREECE

LOCATION: The Ionian Islands are located in the Ionian Sea off of the west coast of mainland Greece. The islands covered by this guide stretch from Levkas in the north to Kefallonia in the south. Elevations range from sea level to some 5,341 feet above it on Keffalonia. All of the islands are mountainous, with irregular coastlines. Access to Levkas is by road, the others may be reached by sea or by air. All the islands are popular destinations during the summer months. The air of all of the islands is scented by a variety of wild herbs that grow wherever the land is not under active cultivation. These include rosemary, thyme, oregano, sage, basil, dill, and many others. Their aromas make midday in midsummer on an Ionian hillside something to remember.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:51	10:45	11:56	13:10	14:14	14:47	14:33	13:39	12:29	11:15	10:10	9:35
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:30	5:58	6:46	8:53	10:54	12:03	13:05	12:03	9:41	7:58	5:41	4:22
AREA OF BLUE SKY	44%	46%	51%	57%	67%	80%	94%	91%	80%	67%	50%	45%
LOW FOR MONTH	40 °	40 °	44 °	48 °	54 °	61 °	66 °	66 °	62 °	56 °	47 °	43 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	47 °	47 °	50 °	54 °	60 °	67 °	72 °	72 °	69 °	62 °	56 °	51 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	57 °	58 °	61 °	67 °	75 °	82 °	87 °	87 °	82 °	73 °	66 °	60 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	63 °	64 °	68 °	74 °	83 °	90 °	94 °	94 °	88 °	82 °	75 °	66 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	69%	67%	65%	64%	58%	57%	53%	54%	59%	66%	70%	72%
NEARBY WATERS	60 °	58 °	59 °	60 °	65 °	71 °	74 °	78 °	76 °	73 °	67 °	61 °
DRY DAYS	57%	55%	67%	75%	86%	93%	97%	96%	88%	73%	60%	53%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	68%	71%	80%	86%	93%	97%	99%	98%	94%	80%	70%	64%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.98	0.84	0.53	0.33	0.18	0.07	0.02	0.07	0.21	0.82	1.10	1.29
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	12%	14%	9%	9%	5%	4%	3%	3%	8%	15%	19%	14%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	1%	4%	5%	8%	6%	7%	8%	9%	8%	4%	3%	1%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 68% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 46% in December and January, to a high of 90% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 37°, and the highest should be near 97°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. The islands enjoy the typical Mediterranean three-season year, with winter rains and summer drought. The rains here tend to be somewhat heavier than in most of the Greek mainland, and the islands produce a variety of fruits, nuts, and vegetables for the Greek market. The *meltemi* winds of summer in the Aegean, are largely absent in these islands. Consequently, the island interiors can get quite hot in summer.