

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

LOCATION: The island nation of Iceland is located in the North Atlantic Ocean, just south of the Arctic Circle. Reykjavik, its capital, is located in the southwestern part of the island. The city is situated on a peninsula which is itself a projection off of a larger peninsula. Everywhere in the city, the elevations are within a few hundred feet of sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	5:30	8:29	11:42	15:02	18:24	20:53	19:43	16:28	13:09	9:52	6:38	4:26
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:48	1:55	3:32	4:39	6:07	5:41	5:36	5:02	3:56	2:33	1:13	0:21
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	30%	30%	29%	29%	28%	25%	27%	28%	29%	30%	30%
LOW FOR MONTH	13°	15°	15°	21°	29°	37°	42°	39°	32°	25°	18°	14°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	27°	28°	30°	33°	39°	44°	48°	47°	42°	37°	32°	29°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	35°	37°	39°	43°	49°	54°	57°	56°	51°	45°	39°	37°
HIGH FOR MONTH	46°	46°	48°	52°	59°	62°	65°	63°	58°	53°	49°	48°
FROSTY MORNINGS	76%	70%	64%	48%	15%	1%	0%	0%	7%	29%	51%	70%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	79%	76%	74%	73%	67%	73%	74%	73%	72%	76%	80%	78%
NEARBY WATERS	40°	38°	41°	40°	41°	44°	46°	48°	46°	44°	42°	41°
DRY DAYS	36%	37%	40%	41%	49%	49%	51%	44%	37%	35%	37%	33%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	71%	72%	71%	70%	75%	75%	78%	73%	67%	65%	67%	69%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.58	0.57	0.53	0.40	0.31	0.33	0.34	0.43	0.52	0.61	0.60	0.58
LIKELY SNOWFALL	23.4"	21.4"	21.4"	10.0"	2.5"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.7"	6.1"	16.3"	23.6"
SNOWY DAYS	42%	42%	39%	25%	7%	0%	0%	0%	1%	11%	29%	43%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	6%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%

COMMENTS: There is no true night from late May through the middle of July. These are the “white nights”, when the sun is below the horizon, but twilight prevails from sunset to sunrise--a matter of some three hours. Similarly, during midwinter, daylight last for only a few hours, and the sun (if it appears at all) will only climb a few degrees above the horizon--usually to be obscured by buildings, hills, or clouds. Iceland’s oceanic location makes temperatures more moderate than would otherwise be the case. Summers are cooler (mild is about as warm as it gets), and winters are warmer (relatively speaking) because of the winds off the sea. From October through early May, both snow and rain are common. Consequently, the snow cover in the city proper is both patchy and sporadic. On the other hand, freezing rain is very common. This often coats the roads and sidewalks even when the air temperatures are well above freezing.