

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO PALERMO AND THE “GOLDEN SHELL” (SICILY), ITALY

LOCATION: Palermo is located on the northwest coast of the island of Sicily. The city is situated at the northern end of a fertile plain (the Conca d'Oro, or "Golden Shell"), surrounded by low mountains. Palermo faces the Gulf of Palermo and the Tyrennian Sea. Elevations in the city proper are close to sea level, but some of the hills in the area can rise to several hundred feet higher. The city is noted for its eclectic architecture, a fascinating blend of Arab and Norman.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 9:51 | 10:46 | 11:56 | 13:10 | 14:13 | 14:46 | 14:33 | 13:39 | 12:29 | 11:15 | 10:10 | 9:35 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 4:19 | 4:42 | 6:14 | 7:25 | 9:13 | 11:34 | 13:06 | 12:04 | 9:21 | 6:31 | 5:07 | 4:03 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 36% | 36% | 44% | 46% | 54% | 68% | 84% | 84% | 64% | 48% | 42% | 35% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 39 ° | 39 ° | 41 ° | 45 ° | 50 ° | 58 ° | 65 ° | 65 ° | 60 ° | 52 ° | 46 ° | 42 ° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 44 ° | 45 ° | 47 ° | 51 ° | 56 ° | 63 ° | 67 ° | 68 ° | 65 ° | 59 ° | 53 ° | 47 ° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 59 ° | 60 ° | 63 ° | 68 ° | 76 ° | 81 ° | 86 ° | 87 ° | 83 ° | 76 ° | 68 ° | 62 ° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 70 ° | 72 ° | 76 ° | 82 ° | 88 ° | 93 ° | 96 ° | 97 ° | 94 ° | 85 ° | 79 ° | 73 ° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90 ° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 3% | 13% | 11% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 70% | 69% | 67% | 67% | 68% | 66% | 64% | 64% | 64% | 66% | 67% | 69% |
| NEARBY WATERS | 58 ° | 57 ° | 57 ° | 59 ° | 64 ° | 71 ° | 76 ° | 78 ° | 75 ° | 70 ° | 65 ° | 61 ° |
| DRY DAYS | 55% | 54% | 62% | 66% | 79% | 88% | 95% | 95% | 80% | 64% | 58% | 53% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 76% | 77% | 81% | 82% | 90% | 95% | 99% | 97% | 89% | 78% | 75% | 75% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.61 | 0.55 | 0.39 | 0.35 | 0.17 | 0.08 | 0.03 | 0.12 | 0.28 | 0.59 | 0.63 | 0.64 |
| DAYS WITH SOME SNOW | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER | 5% | 8% | 5% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 7% | 12% | 10% | 6% |
| DAYS WITH SOME FOG | 1% | 1% | 4% | 8% | 9% | 12% | 12% | 10% | 9% | 5% | 5% | 2% |

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 62% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 42% in December, to a high of 90% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 36 ° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 101 ° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. The area has a true Mediterranean three-season year. Summers are very sunny, quite hot, and usually dry. Winters are the rainy season, and are still fairly sunny, cool to mild, and rainy. Spring is a transitional season, as the rains taper down, the days get longer, and the hillsides and meadows burst forth with blossoms. There is no “fall” since the dominant vegetation is evergreen and both local vegetation and crops continue to grow all year around. The *scirocco*, a hot dry wind from the south, can cause extremely high temperatures combined with extremely low relative humidities and dusty skies. The sky turns yellow, the sun is a pale disc, and tempers flare. Residents of the city wisely try to stay home and do as little as possible.