

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE OUTER HEBRIDES, SCOTLAND

LOCATION: The Outer Hebrides are a group of islands in the North Atlantic Ocean off of the western coast of Scotland. The largest of the islands is Lewis, and the administrative center of the group is on that island at Stornoway. Other major islands include North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist, and Barra. Elevations range from sea level to more than 2,000 feet above it in this rugged subarctic archipelago.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	7:15	9:19	11:47	14:21	16:43	18:07	17:31	15:24	12:54	10:22	7:59	6:35
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:07	2:20	3:27	4:57	6:07	5:42	4:09	4:17	3:33	2:31	1:29	0:49
AREA OF BLUE SKY	24%	23%	28%	28%	28%	23%	22%	22%	24%	24%	26%	26%
LOW FOR MONTH	26°	26°	27°	30°	33°	39°	43°	42°	38°	33°	29°	27°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	37°	36°	37°	39°	43°	47°	51°	51°	48°	44°	40°	38°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	44°	44°	46°	49°	54°	58°	60°	61°	57°	53°	48°	45°
HIGH FOR MONTH	51°	51°	54°	57°	64°	68°	69°	67°	64°	60°	55°	52°
FROSTY MORNINGS	27%	27%	18%	12%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	14%	20%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	85%	82%	79%	77%	75%	77%	80%	80%	80%	81%	84%	86%
NEARBY WATERS	47°	46°	46°	46°	49°	52°	54°	56°	55°	53°	50°	49°
DRY DAYS	20%	24%	28%	34%	42%	42%	35%	32%	28%	23%	20%	18%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	61%	65%	65%	66%	71%	71%	69%	65%	60%	56%	57%	59%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.88	0.69	0.60	0.50	0.40	0.42	0.51	0.62	0.74	0.89	0.89	0.92
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.9"	7.1"	6.1"	2.4"	0.3"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.6"	3.4"	7.1"
SNOWY DAYS	18%	20%	18%	9%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	8%	15%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	1%	2%	2%	6%	7%	6%	8%	5%	3%	4%	1%	2%

COMMENTS: The islands have a four-season sub-arctic climate much moderated by the relatively warm waters of the North Atlantic Drift, the cooler extension of what starts out as the Gulf Stream. Summer afternoons are long and appear even longer by the addition of more than an hour of twilight at dawn and a similar amount at dusk. Skies are quite cloudy, humidities are quite high, and conditions are very windy. Afternoon temperatures are usually mild to cool, with the highest temperature on record only in the high 70's. Winters are exceedingly stormy, with frequent gales. Afternoons are short, overcast, damp and raw. Yet the surrounding waters and the winds that blow off them allow only one winter night in four to drop below freezing. Most days get some precipitation, and the annual average is more than 800 hours of precipitation.