

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO MENDOZA AND THE ARGENTINE WINE COUNTRY

LOCATION: Mendoza, capital of the province of the same name, is located in west-central Argentina. The city is situated on the eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains, at an elevation of about 2,600 feet above sea level. The highest peak in the Andes, Aconcagua, rises to 22,835 feet a short distance to the west.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	14:03	13:18	12:19	11:19	10:28	10:02	10:13	10:55	11:52	12:53	13:48	14:17
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	9:42	9:16	7:43	7:18	6:21	5:40	6:05	7:12	7:33	8:44	9:49	9:33
AREA OF BLUE SKY	69%	65%	71%	67%	66%	64%	63%	68%	66%	67%	66%	70%
LOW FOR MONTH	54°	53°	46°	38°	32°	27°	26°	29°	33°	39°	44°	51°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	63°	62°	57°	49°	42°	36°	35°	39°	44°	51°	57°	62°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	90°	87°	81°	74°	66°	59°	59°	64°	69°	77°	84°	88°
HIGH FOR MONTH	100°	97°	94°	85°	78°	73°	75°	80°	86°	92°	97°	98°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	24%	24%	10%	3%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	48%	34%	11%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	21%	40%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	40%	43%	47%	49%	51%	49%	47%	40%	34%	33%	33%	36%
DRY DAYS	82%	82%	87%	91%	93%	93%	93%	94%	93%	88%	85%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	92%	92%	94%	96%	98%	97%	98%	97%	97%	94%	93%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.16	0.19	0.16	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.09	0.13	0.11	0.14
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	18%	14%	7%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	9%	17%
FOGGY DAYS	3%	1%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	2%	3%	2%	0%	2%

COMMENTS: The region has a desert version of the standard mid-latitude four-season climate. Precipitation is slight in all seasons, but summer thunderstorms give the summer a rainfall edge over the very dry winters. The area lies in the “rain shadow” of the Andes Mountains. Winds descending the slopes are usually warming as they flow downslope, with corresponding decreases in the relative humidity. Obviously, under these conditions, rain is rare. It’s the humid winds from the eastern half of the compass that usually bring lengthy rains, and these are relatively rare. That leaves the locally-generated summer thundershowers. Summer afternoons are sunny, hot to very hot, and dry--except for a thundershower about one day in five. About half the days are clear. Winter afternoons are shorter, sunny, cool to mild, and very dry. Snow flurries will be seen on about half the winters, but snow on the ground is rare. During the cooler months, cold air drainage from the mountains can pool in low places under conditions of calm or light winds. This often leads to the formation of ground fog and light ground mists in the early morning hours. These mists almost always burn off by late morning.