

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ISLAND OF BONAIRE, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

LOCATION: The island of Bonaire lies in the southern Caribbean, some fifty miles north of the coast of Venezuela. It 112 square miles of desert landscape are administered by the Netherlands. Elevations range from sea level up to 787 feet above it at the summit of the Bronswinkel. Its capital is Kralendijk, and the language is Dutch—although English is widely understood. Visitors come for what may be the sunniest climate in the Caribbean, the superb reef-diving, the tropical wildlife (especially birds), and just to get away from it all.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:30	11:45	12:04	12:24	12:41	12:50	12:46	12:32	12:13	11:53	11:35	11:26
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:15	8:52	8:49	8:13	7:32	8:40	9:23	9:39	8:52	8:12	7:46	7:33
AREA OF BLUE SKY	63%	63%	64%	55%	50%	54%	59%	62%	60%	54%	56%	59%
LOW FOR MONTH	74°	74°	75°	76°	77°	77°	77°	77°	78°	77°	76°	75°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	77°	77°	77°	79°	80°	80°	80°	80°	81°	81°	80°	78°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	84°	84°	85°	86°	87°	87°	87°	88°	88°	87°	86°	84°
HIGH FOR MONTH	86°	86°	87°	88°	89°	90°	89°	90°	90°	89°	89°	87°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	2%	2%	8%	10%	14%	16%	17%	14%	12%	3%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	67%	66%	67%	70%	71%	71%	71%	71%	71%	70%	70%
NEARBY WATERS	80°	79°	79°	80°	81°	82°	82°	83°	84°	84°	83°	79°
DRY DAYS	63%	72%	81%	88%	86%	88%	76%	72%	79%	68%	57%	52%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	88%	92%	97%	96%	95%	96%	92%	90%	92%	85%	79%	82%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.25	0.13	0.07	0.07	0.37	0.09	0.12	0.18	0.21	0.36	0.61	0.53
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	5%	6%	4%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 70% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 59% in May, to a high of 77% in August. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 72°, and the highest should be near 92°—a very small range. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be from 4° (cool season) to 8° (warm season) warmer than actual ones, due to the combination of temperature and humidity. Unlike the pattern on most Caribbean islands, Bonaire's mornings are usually cloudier than the afternoons. During the night, clouds form over the nearby mainland and drift out over the island. Morning finds them still in place. As the day progresses, however, the sun burns these thin clouds away. Virtually all of the rain comes as a series of showers with dry spells in between the wet ones. The bulk of these showers occur during the late night hours, peaking just about sunrise.