

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE OASIS OF GHAT AND THE CAVE PAINTINGS, LIBYA

LOCATION: The oases (there are several) of Ghat are located in the extreme southwest corner of Libya. They are situated along several wadis cut into the Acacus Mountains. These mountains are part of the Tassili Massif that continues on into Libya, and contain many fine examples of cave paintings. These caves can only be reached by 4WD vehicles, and the government requires a guide—both for the protection of visitors and the protection of the paintings. There are no facilities outside of Ghat—and very few there. Rough camping is required.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:47	11:19	12:00	12:44	13:21	13:40	13:32	13:01	12:20	11:36	10:58	10:38
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	9:08	9:46	10:35	10:39	10:48	11:50	12:11	12:03	10:12	9:50	9:07	8:35
AREA OF BLUE SKY	79%	81%	82%	77%	73%	86%	93%	95%	84%	79%	78%	75%
LOW FOR MONTH	37°	39°	44°	52°	61°	70°	72°	72°	68°	55°	46°	38°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	44°	48°	55°	64°	73°	79°	78°	78°	75°	67°	57°	48°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	67°	74°	81°	92°	99°	105°	104°	103°	99°	92°	81°	70°
HIGH FOR MONTH	79°	88°	94°	104°	110°	113°	112°	109°	106°	100°	93°	84°
FROSTY MORNINGS	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	11%	60%	89%	98%	100%	100%	92%	52%	6%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	21%	16%	12%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	12%	15%	22%	28%
DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 85% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a “low” of 81% in dusty May and cloudy December, to a high of 93% under the blazing August sun. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to freezing on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 115° when the *ghibli* is blowing. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 10° cooler than actual ones, due to the low humidity. The humidity figures above are for the oases. The humidity in the surrounding desert or out at the airport will probably be about half that. The *ghibli* is a hot, dry wind from the southern desert that can drop the humidity and raise both temperatures and tempers to excessive heights. It can blow at any time of year, but is most common in the spring and early summer. It frequently carries dust and sand, and lasts for days at a time. May gets the *ghibli* on about half of its days, with the year as a whole getting it on a quarter of the days. The area is extremely dry. However, a freak storm dissolved much of the old mud-brick village of Ghat in the 1960s.