

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE TIMBUKTU AREA, MALI

LOCATION: Tombouctou (better known as Timbuktu) is located in the central part of Mali. The city is situated in a rapidly-vanishing desert oasis near the Niger River. It is also at the junction of trade routes along the Niger with those crossing the Sahara Desert from North Africa. Elevations are just about 1,000 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:15	11:36	12:03	12:31	12:55	13:07	13:02	12:42	12:15	11:47	11:22	11:09
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:42	9:08	9:00	8:53	9:11	8:20	8:31	8:29	8:36	9:01	9:16	8:31
AREA OF BLUE SKY	66%	73%	70%	67%	65%	65%	58%	54%	59%	69%	67%	62%
LOW FOR MONTH	47°	51°	56°	62°	70°	73°	71°	70°	71°	65°	60°	47°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	55°	59°	65°	72°	78°	80°	78°	76°	76°	73°	64°	56°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	87°	93°	99°	104°	109°	107°	102°	97°	101°	103°	96°	87°
HIGH FOR MONTH	94°	100°	107°	111°	115°	114°	110°	105°	109°	108°	103°	97°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	16%	43%	80%	95%	99%	98%	93%	92%	94%	96%	70%	21%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	17%	14%	13%	12%	15%	24%	34%	42%	33%	18%	15%	17%
DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	97%	91%	81%	77%	87%	98%	99%	99%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	95%	88%	84%	93%	99%	99%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.12	0.37	0.53	0.21	0.02	0.00	0.00
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	1%	4%	14%	24%	28%	18%	3%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%	3%

COMMENTS: The area is definitely on the desert edge of the wet-and-dry tropics. The so-called wet season of July through September sometimes passes by with hardly a drop of rain. Even during a normal rainy season, four out of five days are bone dry. When the rains do come, it will most likely be as a series of intense but brief thundershowers in the afternoon and evening. These cool the oven-like air somewhat (and also humidify it uncomfortably), but it doesn't last long. The thirsty earth soaks up the moisture almost instantly, and things are quickly back to normal. Each year the shifting sands of the desert gobble up a little bit more of the oasis. First the gardens under the palms disappear, then the trunks of the trees vanish, finally the fronds. Soon, nothing is left to suggest that there ever was a fertile oasis here. The city itself is covered with layers of sand and dust of varying thickness. If you always wanted to visit Timbuktu, better make it soon.