

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO AQABA AND THE GULF OF AQABA, JORDAN

LOCATION: Aqaba, Jordan's chief port and resort area, is located in the extreme southeastern part of that country. The city is situated at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba and the mouth of the great Wadi al-Arabah, the dry-land continuation of this geologic rift. Elevations are close to sea level in the town itself.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:29	11:08	11:59	12:52	13:38	14:01	13:51	13:13	12:23	11:29	10:42	10:18
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:58	8:47	9:22	10:04	11:40	13:14	13:32	12:52	11:56	10:19	9:07	7:57
AREA OF BLUE SKY	72%	73%	73%	74%	78%	97%	98%	98%	97%	88%	81%	72%
LOW FOR MONTH	41°	44°	47°	53°	59°	68°	70°	71°	69°	61°	51°	44°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	50°	52°	58°	65°	72°	77°	80°	80°	77°	71°	61°	53°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	67°	71°	77°	86°	93°	99°	101°	101°	95°	90°	80°	70°
HIGH FOR MONTH	77°	82°	90°	98°	105°	109°	109°	108°	105°	100°	90°	80°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	1%	6%	33%	73%	95%	97%	96%	91%	56%	8%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	37%	32%	28%	23%	19%	17%	19%	20%	24%	29%	34%	40%
NEARBY WATERS	69°	67°	68°	71°	74°	76°	79°	81°	79°	78°	75°	71°
DRY DAYS	95%	94%	95%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	97%	97%	94%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.05
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%

COMMENTS: Aqaba has a desert version of the Mediterranean three-season year. Spring runs from March through the middle of May, and is essentially a transition season from winter to summer. It is noted for the blossoming of the sparse native vegetation. Summer runs from the middle of May through the end of October. It is extremely sunny, extremely dry, and extremely hot. Winter runs from November through February, and (along with early spring) gets what little rain the area sees. This is one of the sunniest and driest places on earth. Winds will normally be from the north--down the Wadi--and fairly steady. On occasion (especially during the spring and early summer), they will blow out of the deserts of Arabia to the east and southeast. When they do, they will bring dust and sand, extremely high temperatures, remarkably low humidities, and very short tempers. This is the fabled *scirocco* or *simoon*. It usually blows for a few days at a time, which will seem endless. Wearers of contact lenses should remove them. More than the eyes become irritated. Local law recognizes that crimes of violence committed during these storms carry lesser penalties than during other times.