

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BAALBEK AND THE BEKAA VALLEY, LEBANON

LOCATION: Baalbek is located in northeastern Lebanon. It is situated at an elevation of 3,855 feet near the northern end of the Bekaa Valley. The town sits at the foot of the Jabal ash-Sharqi (Western Mountains), which rise to 8,625 feet. Across the valley to the east, the Jabal Lubnaan (Mountains of Lebanon) rise to a snowy 10,131 feet. Founded in Phoenician times (the name means "Lord of the Bekaa"), the town rose to prominence under the Greeks and Romans, who named it Heliopolis ("City of the Sun"). Baalbek's elevation makes it a popular summer resort.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:10	10:57	11:57	13:01	13:55	14:23	14:11	13:26	12:26	11:22	10:27	9:57
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:43	5:54	7:23	8:53	10:53	12:56	12:57	12:26	11:08	8:43	6:46	4:44
AREA OF BLUE SKY	58%	59%	62%	63%	72%	87%	90%	89%	87%	79%	69%	60%
LOW FOR MONTH	22°	26°	28°	36°	41°	47°	52°	52°	49°	43°	31°	26°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	34°	35°	39°	47°	53°	59°	63°	62°	59°	52°	43°	37°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	46°	49°	55°	65°	73°	81°	86°	85°	81°	71°	58°	49°
HIGH FOR MONTH	58°	64°	71°	80°	87°	92°	95°	94°	91°	86°	72°	64°
FROSTY MORNINGS	71%	58%	35%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	49%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	10%	29%	27%	9%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	67%	58%	49%	38%	35%	31%	31%	32%	35%	43%	57%	70%
DRY DAYS	69%	70%	77%	85%	94%	98%	99%	99%	98%	90%	81%	73%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	69%	76%	83%	92%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	95%	88%	79%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.09	0.82	0.56	0.22	0.10	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.37	0.79
LIKELY SNOWFALL	10.7"	7.1"	2.7"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	4.1"
SNOWY DAYS	7%	7%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
THUNDER DAYS	6%	6%	5%	4%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	5%	6%
FOGGY DAYS	10%	7%	4%	3%	3%	0%	1%	4%	4%	3%	3%	10%

COMMENTS: Baalbek has a Mediterranean-type three-season year. Spring starts about the middle of March and lasts through the middle of May. Periods of warm sunny weather alternate with periods of cloudy and rainy weather, with the former gradually dominating. Summer extends from late May through the middle of November. It is the sunny and dry season, and rainfall will be negligible or entirely absent. Baalbek will get clear days some 58% of the year. July and August lead the way, with clear days on six out of seven occasions. Even the winter months will get clear days about three times a week. Winter runs from the first heavy rains of November through early March. It is characterized by frosty mornings, frequent rains, and some snow. Snow is usually restricted to flurries and light falls. Every once in a while, a heavy fall will close the local roads. Rain is still more common than snow throughout the winter months.