

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO PALMYRA AND THE SYRIAN DESERT, SYRIA

LOCATION: The new community of Palmyra (known by its original name of Tadmur by its inhabitants) is located in central Syria. The town grew up around the ancient ruins of the Assyrian/Greek/Roman city of the same name. The site is a true oasis in the desert, dependent upon springs and wells. To the south are the salt flats of Sabkhat al Muh. Elevations are around 1,300 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:08	10:56	11:57	13:02	13:57	14:26	14:14	13:28	12:26	11:21	10:24	9:54
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:43	6:56	7:49	8:54	10:36	12:58	13:20	12:32	10:58	9:13	7:24	5:49
AREA OF BLUE SKY	52%	55%	59%	61%	72%	92%	98%	97%	94%	80%	66%	55%
LOW FOR MONTH	27°	29°	33°	44°	50°	60°	67°	67°	59°	48°	36°	28°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	36°	39°	44°	53°	60°	67°	70°	70°	66°	57°	46°	39°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53°	59°	66°	77°	87°	96°	100°	100°	94°	82°	68°	57°
HIGH FOR MONTH	60°	67°	76°	88°	98°	103°	107°	106°	102°	92°	78°	65°
FROSTY MORNINGS	24%	13%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	15%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	3%	30%	75%	94%	94%	74%	14%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	60%	50%	41%	32%	25%	20%	20%	22%	25%	33%	48%	61%
DRY DAYS	83%	81%	81%	88%	95%	99%	99%	99%	99%	94%	89%	86%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	93%	92%	94%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	95%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.14	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.10	0.12
SNOWY DAYS	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	2%	3%	6%	6%	1%	0%	0%	1%	5%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	9%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	8%

COMMENTS: The region enjoys a desert variation of the Mediterranean three-season year, with its winter rains (much reduced) and summer drought (much enhanced). Crops are grown throughout the year. Spring (March through May) is a transition season, made notable by the blossoming of the desert wildflowers. Summer (June through late October) is very hot, very sunny, and bone-dry. There is no autumn, and winter is considered to start with the first serious rain of late October or early November. Winters feature short days that are still sunny, occasional rains, and occasional frosts. Winds will normally be from the west--from the direction of the Mediterranean--and fairly steady. On occasion (especially during the spring and early summer), they will blow out of the Syrian Desert 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*--also known as the *khamseen*. During the storm, fine dust will penetrate everywhere--from the insides of cameras to the insides of refrigerators. Wearers of contact lenses should remove them.