

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ANDORRAN PYRENEES

LOCATION: The small (population about 70,000) Principality of Andorra is located in the Pyrenees Mountains, tucked away between northeastern Spain and southwestern France. The Principality has two heads of state—the President of France and the Bishop of Urgel (Spain)—and a locally-elected administrative leader. The principal economic activities are tourism (especially ski resorts) and sheep-raising. The local residents would be shocked—shocked, I say!—to hear that their larger neighbors sometimes think that a bit of smuggling also goes on from time to time. Elevations range from around 2,750 feet above sea level to some 9,652 feet at the summit of Pic de Coma Pedrosa. The data in the table below are characteristic of the 4,500' level, where many of the towns are located.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:28	10:32	11:55	13:21	14:36	15:15	14:58	13:55	12:33	11:07	9:50	9:09
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:56	5:06	5:44	6:35	8:18	9:11	11:12	10:24	7:50	5:51	5:10	3:33
AREA OF BLUE SKY	39%	43%	34%	35%	43%	47%	63%	67%	53%	44%	47%	36%
LOW FOR MONTH	17°	14°	21°	29°	31°	39°	44°	44°	39°	31°	24°	18°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	27°	26°	32°	36°	39°	48°	52°	51°	47°	41°	34°	29°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	42°	42°	50°	55°	60°	70°	75°	72°	67°	58°	48°	40°
HIGH FOR MONTH	54°	55°	62°	68°	73°	81°	86°	86°	78°	70°	61°	51°
FROSTY MORNINGS	63%	61%	53%	39%	20%	2%	0%	0%	1%	13%	45%	58%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	50%	47%	43%	43%	39%	33%	37%	41%	49%	57%	58%
DRY DAYS	84%	75%	72%	66%	58%	72%	81%	80%	74%	74%	74%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	91%	87%	85%	81%	75%	83%	88%	85%	83%	83%	84%	86%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.23	0.30	0.34	0.43	0.67	0.49	0.37	0.61	0.55	0.53	0.44	0.37
LIKELY SNOWFALL	11.7"	11.8"	7.9"	4.8"	2.6"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.9"	4.2"	8.2"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	16%	20%	18%	13%	6%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	10%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%	7%	9%	7%	6%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	5%	4%	4%	5%	6%	3%	4%	6%	6%	7%	2%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 56% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 39% in December, to a high of 75% in July and August. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 12° at this elevation, and the highest should be near 89°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones. Elevation and--to a lesser degree--slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets.