

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SOFIA AREA, BULGARIA

LOCATION: Sofia is located in west-central Bulgaria. The city is situated on several tributaries of the Iskur River, in a basin surrounded by low mountains. Most of the city is around 1,800 feet above sea level, but Mount Vitosa (which is practically within the city limits) rises to some 4,121 feet in elevation.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:26	10:31	11:54	13:22	14:37	15:16	15:00	13:56	12:33	11:06	9:49	9:07
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:06	3:14	4:21	5:56	7:05	8:31	9:49	9:21	7:17	5:06	2:51	1:47
AREA OF BLUE SKY	29%	33%	37%	39%	41%	48%	61%	66%	60%	48%	33%	27%
LOW FOR MONTH	6°	10°	19°	29°	37°	45°	50°	47°	39°	30°	21°	12°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	23°	26°	32°	41°	49°	54°	57°	57°	51°	43°	35°	27°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	34°	39°	50°	60°	69°	75°	80°	80°	73°	62°	49°	38°
HIGH FOR MONTH	50°	56°	68°	76°	82°	86°	93°	91°	86°	77°	65°	54°
FROSTY MORNINGS	85%	75%	48%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	41%	71%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	7%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	73%	66%	56%	49%	52%	52%	46%	45%	48%	58%	69%	76%
DRY DAYS	62%	58%	62%	56%	50%	54%	68%	75%	74%	65%	62%	62%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	86%	85%	83%	78%	74%	75%	83%	86%	86%	82%	81%	84%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.21	0.23	0.24	0.35	0.49	0.54	0.39	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.34	0.25
LIKELY SNOWFALL	13.4"	10.4"	9.3"	2.9"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	1.0"	8.7"	10.4"
SNOWY DAYS	36%	35%	23%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	16%	26%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	1%	1%	5%	15%	21%	16%	11%	5%	2%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	35%	22%	13%	6%	1%	2%	1%	1%	4%	12%	24%	38%

COMMENTS: Sofia has the standard mid-latitude four-season year. Spring (mid-March through May) brings blossoms and new vegetative growth. Cold spells alternate with warm ones, with the latter gradually becoming longer and more frequent. Summer runs from June through the middle of September. It is the season of long, sunny days and short, cool nights. Autumn continues from late September through early November. Leaves fall, annuals wither, and the cold spells become more frequent. Winter (late November through the middle of March) sees the ground freeze, snow fall, and the days become short and cold. The ground will be snow-covered about half the time during winter, but rarely to any great depth. Most of the winter precipitation will be snow. It takes from ten to fifteen inches of snow (depending upon how "wet" it is) to melt down to one inch of precipitation. Throughout the year, weather changes can be expected at three-to-five-day intervals. The hilly topography makes for a somewhat complex climatic pattern. Expect temperatures to drop an average of 3.3° per 1,000' increase in elevation. On the other hand, hollows and valleys often suffer from cold air drainage on winter nights that makes them colder than the hills.