

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO AVIGNON AND THE VAUCLUSE, FRANCE

LOCATION: Avignon is located in southern France, in the general region of Provence. The town is situated in the lower Rhone Valley, north of the junction of the Durance with the Rhone. Elevations are less than 100 feet above sea level on the banks of the river itself, but rise to several hundred feet higher on the bordering bluffs. Avignon is the historic capital of the Vaucluse, a scenic region of limestone hills and low mountains that spreads out to the east and south of the city and north of the Durance Valley.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:19	10:27	11:54	13:25	14:44	15:26	15:08	14:01	12:34	11:04	9:43	8:59
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:37	5:36	6:30	7:54	8:49	10:31	11:32	10:06	7:57	5:59	4:43	4:08
AREA OF BLUE SKY	42%	43%	43%	45%	45%	52%	65%	60%	51%	45%	43%	40%
LOW FOR MONTH	26°	21°	32°	36°	44°	50°	54°	54°	49°	41°	34°	20°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	34°	36°	41°	45°	51°	58°	61°	59°	56°	48°	41°	37°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	49°	53°	59°	67°	74°	82°	87°	86°	77°	67°	56°	50°
HIGH FOR MONTH	58°	63°	68°	77°	86°	91°	95°	96°	90°	79°	67°	59°
FROSTY MORNINGS	26%	19%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	18%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	24%	17%	3%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	58%	58%	55%	56%	51%	45%	50%	54%	60%	64%	67%
DRY DAYS	71%	70%	70%	73%	73%	77%	87%	82%	79%	70%	71%	72%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	90%	87%	85%	85%	85%	88%	93%	90%	87%	82%	82%	86%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.15	0.23	0.31	0.36	0.40	0.28	0.21	0.29	0.43	0.53	0.49	0.34
SNOWY DAYS	3%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	2%	2%	5%	8%	10%	9%	11%	10%	5%	3%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	8%	10%	13%	5%	6%	6%	12%	8%	21%	21%	14%	8%

COMMENTS: The Avignon area enjoys a four-season year. Precipitation is light, but is well-distributed throughout the year. It reaches a peak in October, and a minimum in January. Summer afternoons are long, hot to very hot, quite sunny, and usually dry--but with the odd summer thundershower to keep things from getting too dry. Summer nights are short, and mild to cool. Winter afternoons are short but more sunny than cloudy. Afternoon temperatures are mild to cool, while nights are chilly to cold, occasionally frosty. Most mornings start out above freezing. Snow flurries can be expected on a half-dozen occasions during the cooler months, but snow on the ground in Avignon is rare. In the mountains and hilltops of the Vaucluse, it is quite common. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition, when spells of warm weather chase spells of cool weather across the continent of Europe at intervals of roughly three to five days. Avignon is well-known for the morning mists and light fogs along the river.