

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BIARRITZ AND THE *PAYS BASQUE*, FRANCE

LOCATION: Biarritz is located in the Basque Country (*Pays Basque*) of extreme southwestern France. The upscale beach resort is situated on the Bay of Biscay south of the outlet of the Adour River. Elevations are everywhere close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:22	10:29	11:54	13:24	14:41	15:22	15:05	13:59	12:34	11:05	9:45	9:02
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:00	3:55	4:37	5:07	6:23	6:50	6:48	6:55	5:23	4:34	3:21	2:31
AREA OF BLUE SKY	36%	37%	38%	31%	41%	38%	43%	48%	43%	38%	35%	33%
LOW FOR MONTH	27°	28°	33°	36°	43°	49°	52°	52°	48°	41°	32°	29°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	40°	41°	43°	47°	53°	57°	61°	61°	58°	52°	45°	42°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53°	54°	58°	60°	66°	71°	74°	75°	73°	67°	58°	54°
HIGH FOR MONTH	65°	68°	75°	77°	82°	87°	91°	92°	87°	80°	72°	68°
FROSTY MORNINGS	16%	13%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	15%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	59%	59%	58%	54%	63%	61%	60%	60%	65%	69%	68%
NEARBY WATERS	52°	51°	51°	54°	58°	63°	66°	67°	66°	62°	57°	54°
DRY DAYS	52%	51%	58%	51%	50%	56%	63%	63%	59%	55%	50%	49%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	73%	72%	75%	72%	72%	75%	80%	77%	74%	70%	67%	69%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.71	0.74	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.58	0.48	0.64	0.80	1.04	0.99	0.89
SNOWY DAYS	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	4%	4%	3%	4%	8%	11%	12%	11%	10%	6%	4%	4%
FOGGY DAYS	11%	8%	5%	9%	7%	8%	6%	7%	15%	11%	14%	10%

COMMENTS: The area has a four-season year. Precipitation is heavy, with a maximum in autumn and early winter. Measurable rain fall on some 45% of the year's days. Summer afternoons are long and warm, only occasionally hot. Summer nights are mild to cool. The waters are distinctly cool. After all, Biarritz has the same latitude and continental position as southern Oregon. Winter afternoons are generally cool, occasionally cold. Winter nights are quite chilly, and with the wind off the sea they are often quite raw. Some fifteen or twenty of them will start out below freezing. Snow flurries occur in most years, but snow on the ground is rare. Spring is a pleasant season, with lengthening days. The warm spells are more common and last longer than the cold spells. Finally, the cold spells almost disappear. Autumn is a negligible season, since much of the native vegetation is evergreen, continues to grow throughout the winter, and experiences no "fall". Water temperatures are not most American's idea of pleasant, even in mid-summer. Californians who come for the fine surfing must be tolerant of these temperatures. In any case, most visitors rarely go in the water--there's too much else to do in this "California of Europe".