

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO NIMES AND THE LANGUEDOC, FRANCE

LOCATION: Nimes is located in south-central France. The city is situated in the uplands west of the Rhone River valley, in the heart of colorful Languedoc. Elevations are about 200 feet above sea level. *Langue d'oc* is an ancient language spoken in the area south of the Loire River in centuries past. It is similar to Catalan. In it, "oc" meant "yes". North of the Loire, you had the Langue d'oïl, where "oïl" meant "yes". "Oïl" predominated, evolving into the present-day "oui". The Languedoc is relatively little-visited, and parts of it are the most sparsely populated areas of France.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:20	10:27	11:54	13:25	14:43	15:25	15:07	14:01	12:34	11:04	9:43	8:59
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:33	5:39	6:22	8:03	8:57	10:26	11:30	9:58	7:54	5:58	4:39	4:03
AREA OF BLUE SKY	43%	43%	43%	44%	44%	51%	64%	59%	51%	46%	44%	42%
LOW FOR MONTH	25°	24°	32°	37°	43°	50°	57°	56°	50°	41°	33°	27°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	36°	38°	42°	46°	52°	59°	64°	63°	58°	51°	43°	38°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	50°	53°	59°	64°	72°	79°	85°	84°	78°	68°	57°	51°
HIGH FOR MONTH	60°	64°	70°	74°	82°	93°	94°	95°	86°	76°	68°	61°
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	86%	86%	83%	85%	85%	87%	94%	89%	85%	80%	82%	85%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.31	0.32	0.41	0.37	0.42	0.29	0.15	0.30	0.54	0.66	0.50	0.40
SNOWY DAYS	3%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	2%	3%	6%	10%	12%	11%	13%	11%	6%	4%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	8%	10%	13%	5%	6%	6%	12%	8%	21%	21%	14%	8%

COMMENTS: The entire region suffers from fierce cold winds from the northwest, the *mistral*. These winds are especially common during the winter and spring. The effects of the *mistral* can be seen in the trees contorted and bent to the southeast (immortalized in the paintings of Van Gogh). The *mistral* is also reflected in the local architecture: many local farmhouses have no windows or door in their northern or western walls. Except for the *mistral*, the winters in Nimes are fairly mild and sunny. Frosty mornings can be expected from late November through early March, but they are far outnumbered by non-freezing ones in even the coldest months. Snow will fall on a few days during the winter, but snow on the ground past noon of the next day is very rare. Summer days are usually sunny, clear, and hot.