

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO IRAKLION AND CRETE'S NORTHERN COAST, GREECE

LOCATION: Iraklion is the capital of the Administrative Region of Crete, and the island's largest city. It is situated in the central part of the northern coast of the island, not too far from the archeological site of Knossos, and facing the Sea of Crete. The site of Iraklion served as the port to the ancient city of Knossos in Minoan times, and was known as Candia from 1204 through 1913. The massive Venetian walls that circle the old city are still impressive. Elevations within the city are all within a few hundred feet of sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:04	10:53	11:57	13:04	14:01	14:30	14:18	13:30	12:27	11:20	10:21	9:50
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:45	4:19	5:44	7:33	9:43	11:42	12:00	11:10	9:22	6:22	4:58	3:54
AREA OF BLUE SKY	42%	41%	54%	59%	66%	85%	91%	88%	81%	63%	48%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	40°	40°	42°	46°	52°	59°	64°	65°	60°	55°	48°	44°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	48°	48°	50°	54°	59°	66°	71°	71°	67°	62°	56°	51°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	59°	60°	63°	69°	74°	81°	84°	84°	80°	75°	69°	63°
HIGH FOR MONTH	69°	71°	77°	85°	89°	94°	94°	92°	90°	87°	80°	71°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	8%	8%	6%	2%	2%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	65%	62%	62%	58%	61%	57%	56%	59%	60%	63%	64%	66%
NEARBY WATERS	61°	60°	61°	62°	67°	71°	76°	76°	76°	71°	68°	64°
DRY DAYS	56%	61%	69%	81%	88%	97%	99%	99%	94%	81%	65%	58%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	80%	84%	91%	95%	99%	99%	99%	98%	89%	81%	78%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.59	0.48	0.31	0.18	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.10	0.37	0.44	0.54
SNOWY DAYS	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	11%	10%	11%	8%	5%	3%	1%	0%	3%	10%	14%	13%
FOGGY DAYS	1%	2%	7%	8%	10%	10%	11%	16%	9%	4%	2%	0%

COMMENTS: Iraklion, and all of Crete, share in the standard three-season Mediterranean climate. Summers have long, dry, very sunny, days. Winters have short, fairly sunny, days that are relatively wet--but are dry more often than wet. Spring is a transitional season in terms of weather, with spells of cloudy and wet weather gradually losing ground to spells of sunny and dry weather. There is no autumn. Approximately half of the days in the year are clear. This ranges from almost 90% in July to just under 20% in January. Although frosty mornings are not totally unknown in Iraklion, they are very rare. Many years can pass without one here on the coast. Inland, they are a bit more common, and the high mountains are often snow-capped.