

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ISLAND OF THIRA (SANTORINI), GREECE

LOCATION: The Greek island of Thira (also known as Santorini) is located in the Cyclades Archipelago of the southern Aegean Sea. The island is the caldera of an extinct volcano, and is situated some seventy miles north of the island of Crete. Elevations range from sea level up to 1,916 feet above it. The island is bordered by extremely steep cliffs, and most of the towns are away from the shoreline.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:59	10:50	11:57	13:06	14:06	14:37	14:24	13:33	12:27	11:18	10:17	9:44
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:37	4:21	5:16	7:13	9:52	11:34	12:18	11:44	9:48	6:33	5:01	3:48
AREA OF BLUE SKY	41%	41%	49%	56%	66%	84%	93%	93%	84%	65%	49%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	41°	40°	42°	48°	53°	60°	65°	66°	61°	55°	48°	43°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	47°	47°	49°	53°	58°	65°	71°	71°	66°	61°	55°	50°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	55°	55°	58°	64°	71°	78°	81°	81°	77°	70°	64°	58°
HIGH FOR MONTH	66°	68°	72°	79°	85°	91°	91°	88°	87°	83°	75°	69°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	5%	5%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	67%	65%	66%	62%	63%	60%	60%	63%	64%	67%	67%	69%
NEARBY WATERS	61°	60°	61°	62°	67°	71°	76°	76°	76°	71°	68°	64°
DRY DAYS	67%	65%	77%	85%	94%	98%	99%	99%	96%	87%	72%	66%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	81%	83%	89%	93%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	93%	84%	82%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.50	0.37	0.23	0.13	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.18	0.37	0.48
SNOWY DAYS	2%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	10%	8%	6%	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	2%	8%	8%	10%
FOGGY DAYS	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%

COMMENTS: Thira shares the three-season climate of most of the Mediterranean. Spring (early March through early May) is the season of lengthening days and diminishing rains. Summer (mid-May through the first heavy rains of October) is the season of long, very sunny, hot, and very dry days. June through September is typically rainless. Winter starts with the first major rainstorms of October and tapers off gradually into Spring in March. It is less a cold season than a rainy one. It has many spells of fine weather and sunshine--more so than northern European summers. The summer heat is considerably moderated by the Etesian Winds that sweep down from the north with considerable vigor and constancy. Occasionally, they reach gale force. The lee southern side of Thira is notorious for sudden, violent, clear-sky squalls that have wrecked many a small boat--and a few that were not so small.