

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE DOLOMITES, ITALY

LOCATION: The spectacular and popular Dolomite Mountains are located in the extreme northern part of Italy. They form the border between the provinces of Alto Adige and Belluno. There are many resort areas in the valleys that cut into the range. The best know of these is Cortina D'Ampezzo, the site of the 1956 Winter Olympic Games. Elevations range from a few hundred feet above sea level in the valley bottoms, to some 10,965 feet high at the peak of Marmolada. The table applies primarily to the elevations between 4,000 and 5,000 feet. See the Comments section for the effects of elevation on climate.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:02	10:17	11:53	13:33	15:00	15:47	15:27	14:13	12:37	10:58	9:28	8:39
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:06	6:41	7:04	7:24	7:40	8:26	9:18	9:02	7:53	6:28	5:54	5:42
AREA OF BLUE SKY	59%	56%	49%	43%	39%	42%	50%	54%	53%	49%	53%	57%
LOW FOR MONTH	3°	5°	10°	18°	24°	32°	37°	35°	32°	24°	12°	6°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	18°	18°	24°	29°	36°	43°	48°	47°	43°	36°	26°	21°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	29°	31°	38°	44°	52°	60°	66°	65°	60°	50°	38°	31°
HIGH FOR MONTH	41°	44°	50°	54°	65°	72°	76°	75°	70°	62°	51°	44°
FROSTY MORNINGS	96%	95%	84%	71%	27%	5%	0%	1%	3%	28%	78%	91%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	58%	54%	49%	49%	52%	54%	54%	55%	56%	59%	59%	61%
DRY DAYS	83%	80%	74%	66%	56%	53%	61%	64%	71%	67%	74%	80%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	90%	86%	83%	79%	72%	71%	74%	77%	79%	77%	81%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.28	0.44	0.52	0.65	0.86	0.82	0.77	0.71	0.82	0.82	0.66	0.47
LIKELY SNOWFALL	21.5"	28.6"	24.2"	16.9"	7.6"	1.5"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	8.4"	20.0"	31.1"
SNOWY DAYS	20%	19%	19%	15%	6%	1%	0%	0%	1%	6%	13%	19%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	12%	13%	10%	4%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	18%	20%	22%	25%	24%	19%	22%	23%	26%	25%	19%	23%

COMMENTS: Winds tend to blow strongly down the slopes at night, and rather weakly up the slopes during the daylight hours. Passing storm systems can easily override both of these local winds. Elevation and--to a lesser degree--slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets, and therefore in its soil temperature and moisture content. Many mountain valleys are divided into a "sunny side" and a "shady side", with consequent differences in vegetation and land use.