

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ROTTERDAM AND THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

LOCATION: Both Rotterdam and The Hague are located in the southwestern part of the country. Both are considered part of the Randstad, the urban agglomeration centered on Amsterdam. The Hague, the nation's administrative center and royal residence is situated on the coast of the North Sea. Rotterdam, the country's largest port, lies some twelve miles to the southeast, and is situated on the estuary of the Meuse (Maas in Dutch) River. Elevations in both communities are very close to sea level--and sometimes below it.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:21	9:55	11:51	13:52	15:39	16:38	16:13	14:40	12:44	10:44	8:54	7:53
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:46	2:29	4:13	5:33	6:54	7:36	6:36	6:14	4:58	3:19	1:41	1:17
AREA OF BLUE SKY	15%	18%	25%	26%	29%	30%	26%	28%	27%	24%	13%	11%
LOW FOR MONTH	21°	22°	27°	32°	38°	45°	50°	49°	44°	34°	28°	21°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	33°	33°	37°	41°	48°	53°	57°	57°	53°	47°	40°	36°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	41°	42°	48°	54°	62°	66°	70°	70°	65°	57°	48°	43°
HIGH FOR MONTH	51°	52°	60°	68°	78°	82°	86°	83°	77°	67°	59°	53°
FROSTY MORNINGS	36%	44%	24%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	15%	26%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	83%	77%	69%	64%	62%	64%	66%	65%	68%	73%	81%	85%
NEARBY WATERS	42°	41°	42°	45°	50°	55°	60°	62°	61°	57°	51°	46°
DRY DAYS	34%	39%	51%	49%	57%	58%	50%	48%	43%	40%	33%	36%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	74%	78%	81%	75%	79%	79%	75%	74%	70%	68%	67%	74%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.40	0.33	0.25	0.30	0.31	0.35	0.45	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.49	0.39
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.8"	4.2"	3.6"	1.9"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	2.8"	4.5"
SNOWY DAYS	15%	14%	11%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	12%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	3%	3%	6%	11%	15%	17%	16%	10%	7%	5%	3%
FOGGY DAYS	18%	18%	17%	10%	10%	8%	9%	9%	12%	16%	15%	19%

COMMENTS: Both cities have a marine version of the mid-latitude four-season year. The presence of the North Sea and the fact that the prevailing winds are off this sea makes the winters warmer and the summers cooler than would be the case farther inland. Spring (March through May) brings the blossoming of tulips and other flowers, and is considered by many to be the best season for a visit. Summer (June through August) features mild to warm afternoons and cool nights. Autumn (September through November) brings the first frosts and the first snows. Winter (December through February) has short, cloudy, cold days and nights that hover around the freezing point.