

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ALGARVE AREA, PORTUGAL

LOCATION: The Algarve is the south coast of Portugal. It stretches between Cape San Vincent on the west and the River Guadiana at the Spanish border on the east. The Algarve is divided into two distinct sections by Cape Santa Maria near the town of Faro. To the west is the “Rocky Algarve”, with its cliffs, crevices, and coves of fine sand. To the east is the “Sandy Algarve”, where the coast is one endless stretch of pine-backed dunes. Faro is the capital and service center of this district. Although not on the Mediterranean, the characteristic vegetation of the area is Mediterranean Sub-Tropical. Elevation along the shore start at sea level and rise to close to 3,000 feet above it in the western mountains.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:56	10:49	11:57	13:08	14:08	14:40	14:27	13:35	12:28	11:17	10:15	9:41
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:36	6:26	7:15	8:48	10:12	11:32	12:04	11:30	9:12	7:28	6:04	5:34
AREA OF BLUE SKY	51%	52%	55%	58%	64%	72%	82%	82%	70%	60%	53%	50%
LOW FOR MONTH	38°	40°	44°	46°	49°	55°	59°	60°	57°	51°	45°	40°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	47°	48°	50°	53°	56°	62°	66°	66°	64°	59°	53°	49°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	60°	62°	64°	68°	72°	78°	83°	83°	79°	73°	66°	62°
HIGH FOR MONTH	66°	68°	72°	76°	81°	88°	94°	93°	88°	81°	74°	68°
FROSTY MORNINGS	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	18%	15%	4%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	68%	68%	64%	64%	63%	59%	60%	63%	66%	68%	70%
NEARBY WATERS	60°	59°	59°	61°	63°	66°	69°	70°	70°	68°	64°	61°
DRY DAYS	73%	73%	73%	78%	86%	94%	99%	98%	93%	80%	75%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	84%	84%	85%	88%	94%	98%	99%	99%	97%	88%	84%	83%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.47	0.44	0.35	0.23	0.13	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.10	0.37	0.50	0.51
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%	4%	4%
FOGGY DAYS	7%	6%	4%	2%	2%	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%	7%	8%

COMMENTS: The Algarve enjoys Portugal’s best weather, and some of the very best in all of Europe. It has the typical Mediterranean three-season year, with its winter rain and summer drought. Spring is a season of transition. Cool, cloudy, rains spells alternate with warm, sunny, dry spells. Summers are sunny, hot and dry. They last until the first heavy rains of October. The period of mid-June through mid-September is usually rainless. Winters are still sunny, cool rather than cold, and characterized by fairly frequent spells of light rain. Winter extends from the first heavy rains of October through early March, at which time the nice spells significantly outnumber the nasty ones. Even during the worst of winter, two out of five days will be clear and sunny and mild.