

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE HORTA AREA (FAIAL ISLAND), AZORES ARCHIPELAGO

LOCATION: The Azores (“hawks” in Portuguese) are located some 900 to 1,000 miles west of the Portuguese mainland. They consist of three groups of islands, each group out of sight of the others. The island of Faial lies in the central group. Horta is its capital and largest town. Elevations range from sea level to some 3,422 feet above it at the summit of Pico Gordo. The island is a hilly one, and luxuriantly vegetated. It is famous for the dense growth of hydrangeas along its roads and paths.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:49	10:44	11:56	13:11	14:15	14:49	14:35	13:41	12:29	11:14	10:08	9:33
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:58	3:32	4:04	5:09	6:12	6:04	7:38	7:43	6:12	4:43	3:30	2:50
AREA OF BLUE SKY	35%	34%	35%	39%	38%	41%	46%	49%	45%	40%	37%	33%
LOW FOR MONTH	47°	47°	47°	49°	52°	57°	61°	63°	60°	57°	53°	50°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	54°	53°	54°	55°	57°	61°	65°	67°	65°	62°	58°	56°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	62°	61°	62°	63°	67°	71°	76°	78°	76°	71°	67°	63°
HIGH FOR MONTH	66°	66°	67°	69°	73°	78°	82°	85°	82°	78°	72°	68°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	80%	81%	79%	78%	79%	79%	77%	75%	76%	78%	80%	81%
NEARBY WATERS	61°	60°	59°	60°	62°	66°	70°	73°	72°	69°	65°	63°
DRY DAYS	38%	39%	40%	51%	52%	65%	71%	65%	54%	48%	39%	39%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	69%	69%	69%	74%	75%	82%	86%	82%	74%	70%	66%	69%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.71	0.75	0.60	0.46	0.45	0.33	0.25	0.37	0.58	0.68	0.75	0.73
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	7%	6%	3%	6%	7%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%

COMMENTS: The island has a marine version of the Mediterranean three-season year. This oceanic influence makes summer afternoons significantly more pleasant than the torrid afternoons of the mainland. It also makes them somewhat wetter, and a bit more humid. Winter is still the rainiest season, but the surrounding oceans make them a bit warmer than mainland locations at the same latitude. Frost is unknown at sea level, and winter afternoons are usually mild, occasionally cool. Spring is a season of lengthening days and rising temperatures, when spells of warmer weather gradually become dominant over spells of cooler weather. All of the islands are quite windy. These winds are strongest and most persistent in the summer months.