

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE PORTO AREA, PORTUGAL

LOCATION: Porto (Oporto) is located on the Atlantic Coast of northwestern Portugal. The city is situated on the banks of the Douro River, some four miles above its mouth on the Atlantic Ocean. It is a major commercial center and port. Its fame and prosperity rest on the export of Port wine, made from grapes grown in the Douro Valley.

|                       | JAN  | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUN   | JUL   | AUG   | SEP   | OCT   | NOV  | DEC  |
|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT     | 9:35 | 10:36 | 11:55 | 13:18 | 14:28 | 15:06 | 14:50 | 13:50 | 12:32 | 11:09 | 9:57 | 9:17 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE     | 4:37 | 5:12  | 6:02  | 7:49  | 8:35  | 9:30  | 10:23 | 9:45  | 7:41  | 6:11  | 4:48 | 4:08 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY      | 47%  | 44%   | 47%   | 46%   | 48%   | 53%   | 63%   | 65%   | 55%   | 47%   | 45%  | 44%  |
| LOW FOR MONTH         | 31°  | 32°   | 36°   | 39°   | 43°   | 48°   | 51°   | 51°   | 48°   | 42°   | 36°  | 32°  |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE   | 41°  | 42°   | 45°   | 47°   | 51°   | 56°   | 59°   | 58°   | 57°   | 52°   | 46°  | 42°  |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 56°  | 58°   | 61°   | 64°   | 67°   | 73°   | 76°   | 77°   | 75°   | 70°   | 62°  | 57°  |
| HIGH FOR MONTH        | 64°  | 67°   | 72°   | 76°   | 80°   | 88°   | 91°   | 91°   | 88°   | 81°   | 71°  | 65°  |
| FROSTY MORNINGS       | 7%   | 3%    | 1%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 1%   | 3%   |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90°   | 0%   | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 2%    | 5%    | 4%    | 2%    | 0%    | 0%   | 0%   |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY    | 69%  | 67%   | 65%   | 63%   | 66%   | 65%   | 62%   | 62%   | 64%   | 66%   | 69%  | 71%  |
| NEARBY WATERS         | 55°  | 55°   | 55°   | 56°   | 58°   | 60°   | 63°   | 64°   | 63°   | 62°   | 59°  | 57°  |
| DRY DAYS              | 45%  | 45%   | 47%   | 54%   | 57%   | 73%   | 82%   | 80%   | 68%   | 52%   | 46%  | 44%  |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS   | 65%  | 66%   | 68%   | 73%   | 76%   | 85%   | 92%   | 91%   | 82%   | 70%   | 65%  | 66%  |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION   | 1.02 | 0.97  | 0.81  | 0.72  | 0.56  | 0.32  | 0.13  | 0.15  | 0.42  | 0.88  | 1.06 | 1.01 |
| SNOWY DAYS            | 1%   | 1%    | 2%    | 1%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%   | 1%   |
| THUNDER DAYS          | 5%   | 7%    | 9%    | 9%    | 9%    | 8%    | 3%    | 4%    | 6%    | 7%    | 7%   | 7%   |
| FOGGY DAYS            | 30%  | 33%   | 24%   | 20%   | 25%   | 30%   | 34%   | 40%   | 37%   | 36%   | 38%  | 37%  |

COMMENTS: Although not on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Porto enjoys an essentially Mediterranean climate. Its precipitation pattern is characterized by the “winter rain and summer drought” of the Mediterranean area. It is also a sunny city, especially during the summer months, when half the days are clear and even the ones that are not clear are fairly sunny. The main difference is in the temperatures of the summer afternoons. Here, the winds off the North Atlantic keep temperatures from reaching the broiling levels that are so common in the Mediterranean lands. Instead, afternoon temperatures are usually in the 70's, occasionally in the 80's, and sometimes even in the 60's. Quite pleasant, actually, as the values for the “Nice Day Index” in the table above suggest. On the other hand, the city does get a log of fog, especially in the early morning hours. This usually burns off before noon, but not always.