

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ISTANBUL AREA, TURKEY

LOCATION: Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, is located in the western, European part of the country. It is situated on the western European shore of the Bosphorus, that narrow strait that separates Europe and Asia. The Bosphorus is characterized by a very strong current flowing out of the Black Sea to the north toward the Sea of Marmara (and, eventually, the Mediterranean) to the south. The old city of Istanbul surrounds the magnificent protected harbor known as The Golden Horn. Istanbul is a hilly city, with legend giving it seven hills. Elevations in town range from sea level to several hundred feet above it.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:36	10:37	11:55	13:17	14:27	15:05	14:49	13:49	12:31	11:10	9:57	9:18
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:32	3:28	4:27	6:22	8:24	10:35	11:37	10:55	8:21	5:52	3:38	2:46
AREA OF BLUE SKY	29%	31%	37%	46%	55%	68%	76%	75%	69%	54%	39%	32%
LOW FOR MONTH	26°	26°	29°	36°	44°	53°	59°	59°	53°	45°	36°	30°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	37°	37°	39°	45°	53°	61°	65°	66°	61°	54°	48°	41°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	46°	47°	51°	61°	69°	77°	82°	82°	76°	68°	59°	51°
HIGH FOR MONTH	59°	62°	69°	77°	84°	90°	93°	92°	87°	79°	71°	64°
FROSTY MORNINGS	25%	26%	15%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	9%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	9%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	74%	71%	66%	61%	60%	56%	54%	54%	58%	64%	71%	74%
NEARBY WATERS	48°	45°	46°	51°	58°	67°	73°	75°	71°	66°	59°	55°
DRY DAYS	43%	51%	57%	69%	73%	81%	88%	88%	79%	67%	55%	45%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	73%	75%	79%	84%	87%	90%	94%	94%	88%	81%	74%	72%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.60	0.58	0.41	0.26	0.22	0.20	0.19	0.16	0.34	0.43	0.60	0.66
SNOWY DAYS	14%	15%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	5%
THUNDER DAYS	3%	2%	2%	4%	6%	10%	5%	5%	6%	4%	5%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%	4%	4%	4%	4%

COMMENTS: Istanbul has a marine version of the standard mid-latitude four-season climate. Winds from almost any direction except due west will pass over some body of water. This has the effect of making the nights and winters less cold, and the days and summers less warm than they might otherwise be. It also delays all of the seasons by two to three weeks. Summer is sunny, warm to hot, and only slightly rainy. Autumn features shortening days, increasingly cloudy skies, dropping temperatures--but no frosts. Winter is the season for below-freezing temperatures. Snowfalls and flurries are common, but so are cold rains. As a result, the snow that does fall does not remain on the ground for long, and the ground is rarely frozen for long. Spring's spells of nice weather gradually outnumber spells of miserable weather, vegetation bursts into bloom, and all is right with the world.