

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS, FRENCH POLYNESIA

LOCATION: The Marquesas Islands are located just south of the Equator in the central Pacific Ocean. Administratively, they are part of French Polynesia. The group is more or less divided into two sections--a northern one centered on Nuka Hiva, and a southern one centered on Hiva Oa. The eleven islands of the group total some 492 square miles of land area, and are characterized by an almost stereotyped South Pacific landscape of volcanic mountains, cliffs, and steep narrow valleys. The total population is less than 5,000 people. Atuona is the major settlement. Elevations range from sea level to more than 4,000 feet above it.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	12:38	12:26	12:10	11:54	11:41	11:34	11:37	11:48	12:03	12:19	12:34	12:41
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:01	7:55	7:20	7:19	7:09	6:36	6:39	7:06	7:33	7:52	8:11	7:56
AREA OF BLUE SKY	53%	53%	52%	52%	54%	52%	51%	53%	56%	58%	57%	55%
LOW FOR MONTH	71°	72°	72°	73°	72°	71°	70°	70°	69°	70°	71°	71°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	74°	74°	75°	75°	74°	73°	73°	72°	72°	72°	73°	73°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	87°	88°	88°	87°	86°	84°	83°	83°	84°	86°	87°	87°
HIGH FOR MONTH	91°	91°	91°	91°	90°	88°	87°	87°	88°	90°	91°	92°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	11%	20%	26%	22%	9%	2%	0%	1%	3%	7%	12%	13%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	72%	73%	74%	76%	76%	77%	75%	72%	69%	69%	69%
NEARBY WATERS	81°	82°	82°	83°	82°	82°	79°	79°	80°	80°	80°	80°
DRY DAYS	47%	49%	48%	50%	45%	45%	44%	47%	53%	58%	56%	53%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	69%	70%	68%	70%	66%	63%	66%	69%	73%	76%	76%	75%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.76	0.81	0.86	0.77	0.86	1.18	0.83	0.67	0.59	0.49	0.45	0.60
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	5%	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine occurs on 62% of the year's daylight hours. This ranges from a low of 57% in rainy June, to a high of 65% in November. The expected low temperature for the year will be around 68° at some windless August sunrise, and the high will be near 94° on some sunny December afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to six degrees warmer than actual ones. The Marquesas Islands are too close to the Equator to have much to worry about in the way of severe tropical storms. Although such storms are not unknown, they are quite rare. The prevailing winds are the tropical easterlies, making the eastern shore of the island the windward shore and the western shore the leeward one.