

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE MALDIVE ISLANDS, INDIAN OCEAN

LOCATION: The Maldives Republic consists of a chain of low coral atolls straddling the Equator in the Indian Ocean southwest of the tip of the Indian Peninsula. Close to 1,000 islands and islets stretch from about 7° north of the Equator to about 1° south of that line. The islands are low and flat, without any significant elevations. Nowhere is the land more than a few feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:58	12:01	12:06	12:12	12:16	12:19	12:18	12:14	12:09	12:03	11:59	11:57
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:55	8:53	8:47	7:59	6:50	6:14	6:47	6:25	6:28	7:13	7:18	7:07
AREA OF BLUE SKY	54%	54%	56%	47%	30%	18%	22%	24%	33%	35%	42%	50%
LOW FOR MONTH	70°	73°	71°	71°	74°	71°	73°	73°	70°	69°	73°	69°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	78°	78°	78°	79°	79°	78°	78°	78°	77°	77°	78°	77°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	86°	87°	88°	89°	88°	87°	87°	87°	86°	86°	86°	86°
HIGH FOR MONTH	93°	94°	94°	95°	90°	93°	94°	95°	93°	93°	93°	92°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	1%	2%	10%	16%	11%	5%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	78%	77%	77%	78%	81%	83%	82%	83%	83%	82%	83%	81%
NEARBY WATERS	82°	82°	83°	84°	83°	82°	82°	82°	82°	82°	82°	81°
DRY DAYS	82%	86%	83%	74%	52%	38%	43%	47%	43%	49%	60%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	87%	94%	91%	85%	69%	53%	63%	64%	64%	62%	72%	80%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.44	0.29	0.37	0.66	1.29	1.40	1.09	1.22	1.28	1.34	1.15	1.07
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	4%	5%	8%	11%	9%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	3%	7%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: The Maldives have a two-season equatorial year, based on rainfall. From May through November, rains are at their heaviest and most frequent. From December through April, they are lighter and less frequent. No month is completely dry. Temperatures vary only about 2° from the warmest month (April) to the least warm (January). Between the hottest part of the day (afternoon) to the coolest (sunrise) they vary only about 11°. Humidities are uniformly high both day and night. The islands are too close to the Equator to be afflicted with true hurricanes or typhoons, although the occasional tropical storm can get pretty scary due to the low elevations and the height of the waves washing on the outside of the lagoons. Clear weather brings both the highest temperatures and the lowest. Clear skies and very direct sunshine can raise land temperatures to a peak in the middle of the afternoon. These same clear skies allow outgoing land radiation to drop temperatures to their low point just after sunrise. Even so, the daily range of temperatures is small.