

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ZERMATT AND THE MATTERHORN, SWITZERLAND

LOCATION: Zermatt is located in the canton of Valais in southwestern Switzerland. The town is situated at the head of the heavily-glaciated valley of the Vispa River, at an elevation of just about an even mile (5,282') above sea level. To the southwest of Zermatt the slopes rise immediately to the summit of the Matterhorn at 14,688'. To the southeast, Mount Rosa rises even higher to 15,203'. There is no public road access to Zermatt, and private cars are not allowed in town or in the area. Most people arrive by train from Visp or Brig.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:06	10:20	11:53	13:31	14:56	15:42	15:23	14:10	12:36	10:59	9:32	8:44
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:00	3:54	5:00	5:30	5:36	6:06	7:00	6:30	5:30	4:18	3:12	2:30
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	41%	38%	34%	31%	33%	40%	41%	42%	37%	37%	36%
LOW FOR MONTH	1 °	3 °	9 °	20 °	29 °	38 °	41 °	38 °	32 °	22 °	13 °	4 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	10 °	11 °	18 °	26 °	35 °	39 °	41 °	40 °	36 °	29 °	21 °	14 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	34 °	37 °	42 °	48 °	58 °	65 °	68 °	67 °	61 °	52 °	41 °	34 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	42 °	46 °	51 °	61 °	69 °	77 °	78 °	77 °	72 °	63 °	52 °	43 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	99%	99%	94%	66%	26%	9%	3%	5%	17%	55%	88%	98%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	50%	46%	44%	42%	42%	42%	43%	46%	46%	47%	50%	51%
DRY DAYS	75%	72%	74%	70%	63%	61%	67%	62%	69%	70%	71%	73%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	88%	86%	87%	84%	80%	79%	83%	80%	83%	83%	84%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.27	0.32	0.30	0.33	0.42	0.42	0.35	0.44	0.40	0.40	0.36	0.30
LIKELY SNOWFALL	25.1"	27.2"	27.9"	28.6"	16.0"	6.4"	1.9"	2.3"	8.0"	20.2"	27.5"	28.2"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	25%	28%	26%	29%	15%	7%	2%	2%	7%	17%	25%	27%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%	6%	10%	14%	18%	11%	5%	3%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on only 40% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 29% in December, to a high of 46% in July and August. These relatively low percentages reflect the fact that the town is on the northern (shady) side of the Alps, and that the mountains rise rather steeply from the town site. This means that the town is in the shadow of the mountains in the early morning and the late afternoon, even on otherwise sunny days. The lowest temperature of the year should be well below zero some chilly winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 80 ° on some sunny summer afternoon with a down-slope wind. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones, or just a degree or two cooler due to the relatively low humidity and the mountain shade. The area has a mid-latitude four-season alpine climate. No month in the year is reliably free of below-freezing temperatures, and snow falls (at least flurries) in every month.