

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK, FLORIDA

LOCATION: Dry Tortugas National Park is located in the Gulf of Mexico some seventy miles west of Key West. It consists of seven small keys and roughly one-hundred square miles of shoals and waters. The centerpiece of the Park is the unfinished and crumbling Fort Jefferson on Garden Key. Access is by boat and seaplane only. There are no lodgings, no food service or supplies, and no public telephone. There is a dock and an anchorage for boats. There were a few primitive campsites and restrooms, but these were closed as of this writing. Only the upper level of the fort is open to the public, and that only during daylight hours. Loggerhead, East, and Middle Keys may be visited only during daylight hours. Hospital and Long Keys are closed at all times, and Bush Key is closed from March through September to protect nesting terns. Elevations are everywhere virtually at sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:48	11:19	12:00	12:44	13:20	13:39	13:31	13:00	12:19	11:36	10:59	10:39
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:31	8:27	9:24	10:09	10:14	9:38	9:34	9:15	8:21	7:53	7:36	7:13
AREA OF BLUE SKY	53%	58%	59%	59%	53%	43%	42%	42%	40%	49%	54%	54%
LOW FOR MONTH	53°	55°	58°	62°	69°	72°	74°	73°	72°	68°	61°	55°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	66°	66°	68°	71°	74°	77°	78°	78°	78°	75°	72°	68°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	75°	76°	78°	81°	85°	88°	90°	91°	89°	85°	80°	77°
HIGH FOR MONTH	81°	82°	84°	86°	89°	91°	92°	94°	92°	89°	85°	83°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	17%	43%	53%	23%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	69%	69%	65%	70%	70%	66%	67%	63%	67%	70%	66%	69%
NEARBY WATERS	74°	74°	75°	77°	80°	83°	85°	86°	85°	83°	79°	76°
DRY DAYS	80%	80%	84%	85%	75%	63%	62%	53%	48%	64%	78%	79%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	90%	88%	90%	93%	84%	79%	80%	75%	69%	80%	90%	91%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.27	0.54	0.71	0.59	0.66	1.07	0.84	0.37	0.26
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	3%	5%	6%	6%	15%	34%	45%	49%	38%	13%	4%	3%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 72% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 68% from September through December, to a high of 80% in April. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 51 , and the highest should be near 95 . Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be substantially higher than actual ones from June through September, due to the combination of high temperatures and high humidities. The islands have a marine version of the subtropical two-season year. The warm and dry season runs from late October through early May. The hot and rainy season runs from late May through early October. The official hurricane season runs from June through November. The Tortugas have one chance in seven of encountering one of these tropical storms in any given year