

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE KEY WEST AREA, FLORIDA

LOCATION: The Florida Keys are a chain of low islands that stretch more than a hundred miles southwestward from the tip of the Florida Peninsula into the Gulf of Mexico. They start with Virginia Key just south of Miami Beach, and continue on to the Dry Tortugas. Most of them are connected to the mainland by U. S. 1, the Overseas Highway. Key West is at the end of that highway. Elevations are everywhere close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:48	11:20	12:00	12:43	13:20	13:38	13:31	13:00	12:19	11:37	10:59	10:39
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:38	8:36	9:34	10:15	10:16	9:41	9:43	9:22	8:23	7:51	7:38	7:19
AREA OF BLUE SKY	54%	59%	60%	60%	53%	43%	42%	43%	40%	48%	54%	54%
LOW FOR MONTH	53°	55°	58°	65°	70°	72°	73°	73°	73°	69°	61°	55°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	65°	66°	68°	72°	75°	78°	79°	79°	78°	75°	71°	66°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	75°	76°	78°	82°	85°	87°	89°	89°	88°	84°	79°	76°
HIGH FOR MONTH	81°	82°	84°	86°	88°	91°	92°	92°	91°	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%	18%	42%	47%	23%	2%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	69%	67%	65%	63%	64%	67%	65%	66%	69%	69%	69%	69%
NEARBY WATERS	69°	70°	75°	79°	83°	86°	87°	87°	86°	82°	76°	72°
DRY DAYS	80%	80%	84%	85%	75%	63%	62%	53%	48%	64%	78%	79%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	90%	89%	92%	93%	85%	77%	79%	73%	69%	80%	90%	91%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.30	0.31	0.25	0.28	0.49	0.78	0.59	0.75	1.07	0.83	0.42	0.29
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	3%	4%	5%	6%	15%	31%	40%	46%	38%	14%	4%	3%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is probable on 73% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 68% in September and October, to a high of 81% in April. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 50°, and the highest might well be near 92°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones from late November through early May, and up to 10° hotter than actual ones during the summer. Key West has a marine version of the sub-tropical two-season year. The warm waters of the Gulf insure that temperatures do not reach the extremes (of either heat or cold) of mainland locations. Below-freezing temperatures do not occur. The two seasons are a warm and dry season (November through April), and a hot and wet season (May through October). Winds are generally out of the eastern half of the compass, and average about eleven miles per hour. The keys are remarkably free of both industrial pollution and plant pollens.