

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE NAIROBI AREA, KENYA

LOCATION: Nairobi, Kenya's capital, is located in the highlands of the south-central part of the country. The city is situated on a hilly plain, at an elevation of around 6,000 feet above sea level. On a clear day, you can see Mount Kenya (20,338') some eighty miles away to the northeast.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	12:12	12:10	12:08	12:06	12:04	12:03	12:04	12:05	12:07	12:09	12:11	12:12
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	9:14	9:31	8:38	6:52	6:04	5:26	4:14	4:11	6:00	7:14	6:44	8:17
AREA OF BLUE SKY	48%	50%	42%	32%	30%	35%	31%	31%	40%	40%	35%	40%
LOW FOR MONTH	49°	50°	51°	55°	52°	47°	45°	46°	47°	50°	52°	51°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	56°	56°	58°	59°	58°	54°	53°	53°	54°	56°	58°	57°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	79°	81°	80°	77°	74°	73°	71°	72°	77°	78°	76°	76°
HIGH FOR MONTH	83°	85°	85°	83°	80°	79°	78°	80°	83°	84°	81°	81°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	43%	39%	43%	56%	61%	57%	56%	54%	45%	43%	54%	53%
DRY DAYS	81%	80%	67%	46%	48%	78%	84%	81%	82%	75%	48%	65%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	90%	88%	77%	63%	68%	88%	93%	91%	91%	86%	70%	81%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.27	0.35	0.70	1.25	0.91	0.27	0.10	0.15	0.16	0.32	0.74	0.48
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	5%	9%	10%	17%	11%	5%	3%	2%	4%	3%	8%	6%
FOGGY DAYS	13%	8%	9%	13%	9%	6%	6%	4%	5%	6%	8%	18%

COMMENTS: Nairobi has an equatorial highland climate, with a four-season year. These are not the same four seasons found in the mid-latitudes, however. Here, the days are virtually the same length the whole year around, and there is little change in temperatures from one month to another. The four seasons are defined by greater or lesser amounts of rain. The "long rains" run from the middle of March through late May in most years. Most of this rain falls at night--especially between midnight and dawn. The long rains are followed by the major dry season, running from June through September. Then come the "short rains" of October through December. They also are most common at night, but are also likely to continue on into the morning hours. Finally, there is a period of lesser rainfall extending from early January through the middle of March. Elevation is the major control of climate in this part of the world. As you go up in elevation, the temperature will drop an average of 1°F for each 300' of increase in altitude. In addition, the cloudiness tends to increase, and the rains become more frequent and heavier.