

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CAPE TOWN AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

LOCATION: Cape Town is located on the coast of the South Atlantic Ocean, in the extreme south-west corner of the Union of South Africa. It is one of the three official capitals (the legislative one) of the nation. The city itself is situated on the shore of Table Bay, beneath looming, flat-topped, Table Mountain. Elevations range from sea level at the port to some 3,566 feet above it at the summit of Table Mountain. This summary is for the city proper. Table Mountain will be about ten degrees cooler and three times as wet.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	14:08	13:21	12:20	11:17	10:24	9:57	10:08	10:52	11:52	12:55	13:52	14:22
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	11:03	10:28	9:21	7:36	6:14	5:54	6:10	6:45	7:32	8:56	10:12	10:55
AREA OF BLUE SKY	68%	71%	65%	56%	52%	55%	52%	53%	52%	56%	60%	64%
LOW FOR MONTH	52°	52°	49°	44°	39°	36°	36°	37°	39°	42°	47°	50°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	61°	61°	59°	55°	50°	47°	46°	47°	50°	53°	57°	60°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	78°	79°	77°	72°	67°	64°	63°	64°	66°	70°	74°	76°
HIGH FOR MONTH	92°	93°	92°	89°	83°	78°	76°	80°	83°	86°	88°	90°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	3%	6%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	3%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	55%	55%	57%	60%	66%	65%	66%	65%	62%	58%	56%	56%
NEARBY WATERS	62°	63°	61°	59°	59°	58°	58°	58°	58°	59°	60°	63°
DRY DAYS	84%	83%	84%	70%	60%	60%	61%	59%	67%	73%	84%	85%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	94%	93%	93%	84%	77%	75%	77%	78%	82%	86%	92%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.11	0.11	0.15	0.32	0.58	0.70	0.61	0.52	0.37	0.25	0.16	0.13
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	5%	10%	15%	16%	18%	16%	18%	14%	11%	7%	6%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 69% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 59% in rainy June, to a high of 78% in dry January and February. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 35° on some calm and clear July sunrise, and the highest should be near 97° on some sunny and windless February afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be about 2° cooler than actual ones the year around. Cape Town has a southern-hemisphere marine version of the three-season Mediterranean climate. Summers runs from early November through the first heavy rains in late April or early May. They are very sunny and quite dry. Afternoons are usually warm, rarely hot, due to the marine influence. Winter starts with the first heavy rains of late April, and runs until September, when it blends almost imperceptibly into Spring. Winter days get more sunshine than cloud, frequent rains, and afternoon temperatures that are more often mild than chilly (that marine influence, again). Below-freezing temperatures do occur, but not in most years in the city center. Spring starts gradually in September, as the warm spells outnumber the cool ones and the days lengthen more quickly.