

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA

LOCATION: The Okavango Delta is located in northwestern Botswana. It is sometimes called the Okavango Swamp. The geographic feature is the outlet of the Okavango River into a large basin with no surface outlet. Most of the water simply evaporates, some seeps underground into nearby areas. Elevations in the Delta average around 2,800 feet above sea level. The landscape is quite naturally a flat, marshy, and swampy one.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:12	12:47	12:14	11:40	11:11	10:57	11:03	11:27	11:59	12:33	13:03	13:19
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:41	7:21	7:55	9:13	10:00	10:02	10:02	10:39	10:31	9:35	8:31	7:18
AREA OF BLUE SKY	41%	41%	51%	71%	85%	90%	90%	90%	85%	70%	55%	45%
LOW FOR MONTH	60 °	60 °	61 °	48 °	38 °	32 °	32 °	37 °	45 °	54 °	59 °	60 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	67 °	66 °	64 °	59 °	50 °	43 °	43 °	48 °	57 °	65 °	67 °	67 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	89 °	89 °	88 °	87 °	82 °	77 °	77 °	83 °	90 °	94 °	93 °	91 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	97 °	95 °	94 °	94 °	89 °	83 °	85 °	91 °	98 °	102 °	101 °	98 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	59%	58%	58%	36%	10%	0%	0%	14%	62%	77%	80%	70%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	48%	48%	44%	35%	28%	27%	25%	21%	19%	23%	32%	42%
DRY DAYS	59%	58%	74%	84%	97%	99%	99%	99%	99%	89%	73%	67%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	74%	75%	84%	92%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	95%	85%	82%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.72	0.72	0.49	0.19	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.09	0.31	0.49
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	21%	20%	13%	6%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	16%	21%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: The Delta has essentially a wet season and a dry season, with a third hot season superimposed on top of the other two. The wet season has more dry days than wet ones, and runs from late November through the first few days in April in most years. Showers are most common near sunrise and again in the late afternoon. They help to cool things off, with the clouds bringing a welcome shade to this hotter time of year. The dry season normally takes up the rest of the year. The period from May through early October is usually rainless. The hot season starts in the middle of September and runs to about the end of the year, when increasing cloudiness and rains tend to lower the temperatures somewhat. During this hot season, sensible temperatures (the one you actually feel) are less than instrument temperatures because of the relatively low afternoon humidities. In contrast, during June and July, the absence of cloud cover at night and the very low humidities can lead to the occasional frosty morning. Because of the depletion of the southern hemisphere ozone layer, full protection against the sun's rays is strongly recommended.