

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK, NAMIBIA

LOCATION: Etosha National Park is located in north-central Namibia. The centerpiece of the Park is the gigantic Etosha Pan. The Pan is a *playa*, a great alkali flat in the dry season, and a shallow salt lake when flooded in wet years. The Pan is surrounded by perennial springs, which attract considerable number of wildlife, especially during the dry season. Elevations in the Pan are about 3,250 feet above sea level, with the surrounding hills (where the visitor's facilities are located) a few hundred feet higher. Some facilities are closed from November through February.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:09	12:45	12:13	11:41	11:14	11:00	11:06	11:28	11:59	12:32	13:01	13:16
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:57	7:37	7:48	9:27	10:06	10:16	10:31	10:35	10:33	9:45	8:45	8:44
AREA OF BLUE SKY	43%	40%	48%	66%	83%	90%	95%	91%	86%	66%	56%	51%
LOW FOR MONTH	57 °	57 °	56 °	51 °	42 °	37 °	36 °	40 °	45 °	52 °	56 °	57 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	66 °	65 °	64 °	60 °	51 °	45 °	44 °	49 °	57 °	63 °	65 °	66 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	90 °	87 °	87 °	86 °	83 °	78 °	79 °	84 °	91 °	93 °	92 °	91 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	97 °	94 °	93 °	91 °	88 °	83 °	84 °	90 °	96 °	99 °	99 °	98 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	41%	26%	24%	13%	3%	0%	0%	4%	42%	55%	54%	55%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	40%	47%	45%	36%	26%	23%	22%	18%	16%	20%	30%	35%
DRY DAYS	59%	59%	70%	86%	97%	99%	99%	99%	99%	90%	74%	68%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	75%	72%	82%	92%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	95%	86%	83%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.68	0.86	0.52	0.24	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.08	0.32	0.47
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	29%	26%	21%	10%	3%	1%	0%	1%	3%	12%	19%	28%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: The Park has a tropical semi-desert climate, with a two-season year defined by rainfall. The rainy season usually runs from November through early April, with the rest of the year being relatively dry. The period from May through September is normally completely rainless. There is a considerable temperature range from sunrise to afternoon, and sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) vary considerably from the direct sunlight to the open shade.

During the dry season, the winds are almost constant, and there is considerable blowing dust and alkali. Wearers of contact lenses should pack a pair of regular glasses for use during the worst conditions. A pair of prescription sunglasses would be even better.