

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE WINDHOEK AREA, NAMIBIA

LOCATION: Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, is located pretty close to the center of the country. The city is situated on a grassy upland between the Namib Desert to the west and the Kalahari Desert to the east. The area's characteristic landscape is that of a hilly tropical *steppe*; that is, a grassland dotted with a few trees and shrubs. Elevations in town are around 5,700 feet above sea level, and nearby mountains rise to more than 8,000 feet high.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:21	12:52	12:15	11:36	11:03	10:47	10:54	11:21	11:57	12:36	13:11	13:30
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:57	8:36	8:25	9:27	10:02	10:03	10:12	10:32	10:27	10:12	9:45	9:46
AREA OF BLUE SKY	50%	48%	51%	64%	83%	89%	91%	90%	84%	68%	61%	59%
LOW FOR MONTH	56°	55°	52°	47°	40°	35°	34°	37°	41°	47°	50°	54°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	64°	62°	60°	56°	49°	45°	44°	48°	55°	60°	61°	64°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	85°	83°	80°	77°	73°	68°	69°	74°	79°	84°	85°	86°
HIGH FOR MONTH	92°	89°	87°	83°	79°	74°	74°	81°	87°	90°	92°	93°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	21%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	19%	28%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	30%	38%	37%	31%	24%	23%	19%	15%	13%	16%	20%	24%
DRY DAYS	67%	64%	71%	85%	96%	99%	99%	99%	98%	91%	85%	78%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	80%	78%	82%	91%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	96%	93%	89%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.51	0.54	0.51	0.27	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.08	0.18	0.25
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	26%	25%	21%	11%	2%	1%	0%	1%	3%	12%	13%	21%
FOGGY DAYS	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Windhoek has an upland version of the tropical two-season year. Its elevation brings lower temperatures than its sea-level equivalents, and gives rise to the occasional frost mornings that are characteristic of the June through August period. The rainy season has twice as many dry days as wet ones, and runs (usually) from November through April. Like most of this part of Africa, the region's rainfall pattern varies tremendously from one year to another. It is impossible to forecast when the rains will start, when they will end, and how much rain will fall. The dry season is usually very dry, indeed, and extends from May through October in most years. More reliable than the rains are the strong winds that give the town its name ("windy corner"). They can come from any direction, and are occasionally laden with dust and sand. Residents prefer the months of April, May, and June. At this time of year, the rains have greened up the landscape from its normal rather dull brown coloration. That is, of course, assuming that the rains came that year.