

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE JOHANNESBURG AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

LOCATION: Johannesburg ("Jo'burg" to the locals) is located in north-central South Africa. The city is situated on the high *veldt* (grassy plains). Jo'burg sits directly on top of the Rand, the gold-bearing reef that made the city into the industrial and commercial center of the country, and the largest city in Africa south of Cairo. The elevation of the city center here on the high plains is a few hundred feet more than a mile above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:35	13:00	12:16	11:30	10:52	10:32	10:41	11:13	11:56	12:42	13:23	13:45
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:12	8:04	7:44	8:02	8:54	8:54	9:10	9:26	9:23	8:47	8:26	8:34
AREA OF BLUE SKY	55%	47%	51%	65%	77%	82%	82%	80%	73%	59%	47%	46%
LOW FOR MONTH	51°	51°	48°	41°	34°	29°	29°	32°	36°	42°	46°	49°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	59°	58°	56°	51°	45°	40°	40°	44°	49°	53°	56°	57°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	77°	76°	75°	70°	66°	61°	62°	67°	72°	75°	75°	76°
HIGH FOR MONTH	86°	84°	82°	78°	74°	68°	70°	76°	82°	85°	85°	85°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	10%	7%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	51%	53%	50%	46%	38%	35%	33%	29%	31%	38%	47%	49%
DRY DAYS	50%	60%	64%	72%	88%	93%	96%	93%	88%	69%	50%	49%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	70%	75%	78%	85%	95%	97%	99%	97%	94%	82%	70%	72%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.81	0.71	0.58	0.32	0.10	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.18	0.45	0.78	0.76
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	35%	25%	21%	12%	3%	1%	3%	4%	8%	23%	30%	35%
FOGGY DAYS	6%	7%	10%	10%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	6%	7%	5%

COMMENTS: Johannesburg has a highlands version of the sub-tropical wet-and-dry climate. Its elevation keeps temperatures between 15° and 20° cooler than they would be at that same latitude at sea level. This diminution of temperatures brings occasional frosty mornings during the low-sun period. The rainy season extends from the middle of October through the end of March in most years. It features somewhat longer days, warmer temperatures, higher (but not very high) afternoon humidity, and most of the year's rain. Much of this summer rain comes in the form of violent thunderstorms. These can be quite a sight on the high veldt! The dry season runs from April through mid-October. Its days are somewhat shorter and cooler, and get much less rain. Crops and natural vegetation growth continues throughout the year, although some local plants become more or less dormant during the dry season. Because of the depletion of the ozone in the southern hemisphere ozonosphere, the danger of severe sunburn and possible skin-cancer is higher here than almost any place else in the world. Use a good sunscreen, wear a hat, and avoid clothing that exposes a lot of skin.