

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE PIETERMARITZBURG AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

LOCATION: The pleasant little town of Pietermaritzburg is located in the KwaZulu-Natal province of southeastern South Africa. The town is the capital of the province, and was named in honor the the leader of the nineteenth century Voortrekkers in their war with the Zulu. The town is situated in the valley of the Umgeni River, some fifty miles upstream from Durban, and at an elevation of some two-thousand feet above sea level. Howick Falls and the Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve are both some fifteen miles northeast of town, and another 1,300 feet higher in elevation.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:49	13:09	12:18	11:24	10:40	10:17	10:27	11:04	11:54	12:47	13:35	14:01
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:02	7:14	6:56	7:02	7:03	7:22	7:37	7:33	7:19	6:32	6:35	6:54
AREA OF BLUE SKY	43%	50%	52%	60%	63%	70%	72%	67%	59%	42%	42%	43%
LOW FOR MONTH	56 °	56 °	51 °	44 °	37 °	31 °	31 °	35 °	40 °	46 °	50 °	52 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	63 °	61 °	59 °	52 °	43 °	36 °	36 °	41 °	50 °	56 °	59 °	60 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	81 °	81 °	81 °	77 °	74 °	71 °	72 °	73 °	77 °	78 °	79 °	82 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	94 °	92 °	91 °	89 °	87 °	80 °	82 °	85 °	90 °	90 °	92 °	95 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	17%	19%	11%	3%	2%	0%	0%	3%	14%	17%	14%	13%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	53%	53%	51%	47%	40%	37%	34%	35%	37%	42%	47%	48%
DRY DAYS	53%	55%	61%	74%	84%	91%	91%	87%	77%	63%	55%	54%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	69%	71%	74%	86%	92%	96%	96%	93%	87%	78%	73%	72%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.90	0.85	0.80	0.31	0.16	0.09	0.08	0.17	0.35	0.51	0.71	0.82
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	29%	29%	29%	14%	5%	2%	2%	3%	11%	22%	31%	34%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	14%	13%	15%	14%	10%	7%	6%	9%	12%	14%	11%	12%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 59% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 48% in November, to a high of 73% in sunny July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 29 ° at some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 97 ° on some equally clear and windless summer afternoon. Clear skies and calm airs tend to make the high temperatures higher and the low ones lower. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. The area has an upland sub-tropical climate. Below-freezing temperatures do occur, but not in most years. The growing season is continuous. There are essentially two seasons, a rainy one and a dry one. The rainy season runs from October through March. It is cloudy, hot, and humid. The dry season runs from April through September, and is the more pleasant of the two. It is sunny, warm, and fairly dry.