

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ZANZIBAR ARCHIPELAGO, TANZANIA

LOCATION: The Zanzibar Archipelago is a group of tropical islands located in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Tanzania, of which they are an integral political part (the “zan” in Tanzania). These are the fabled “spice islands” of yore. There are two major islands (Zanzibar and Pemba) and a number of smaller ones. Elevations vary on these hilly islands, but are generally close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	12:27	12:19	12:09	11:59	11:51	11:46	11:48	11:55	12:04	12:15	12:24	12:29
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:44	8:13	7:06	5:24	6:44	7:31	7:33	8:14	8:21	8:22	8:15	8:08
AREA OF BLUE SKY	42%	44%	45%	36%	45%	55%	48%	56%	58%	54%	51%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	70 °	71 °	71 °	71 °	69 °	67 °	66 °	65 °	65 °	66 °	69 °	70 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	74 °	74 °	75 °	75 °	73 °	72 °	70 °	69 °	69 °	70 °	72 °	74 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	89 °	90 °	90 °	86 °	85 °	83 °	83 °	84 °	85 °	86 °	88 °	89 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	93 °	95 °	95 °	91 °	88 °	86 °	85 °	86 °	89 °	91 °	92 °	92 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	32%	51%	47%	16%	4%	0%	0%	0%	4%	14%	26%	32%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	65%	66%	70%	76%	74%	67%	65%	63%	62%	65%	71%	70%
NEARBY WATERS	81 °	82 °	83 °	83 °	80 °	78 °	77 °	76 °	77 °	78 °	80 °	80 °
DRY DAYS	79%	82%	61%	45%	57%	81%	85%	82%	82%	77%	61%	62%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	85%	87%	72%	50%	64%	88%	91%	90%	90%	85%	67%	71%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.48	0.45	0.93	2.45	1.66	0.40	0.27	0.26	0.30	0.54	1.34	1.06
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	9%	9%	25%	20%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	14%
FOGGY DAYS	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	5%	4%	6%	9%	8%	3%

COMMENTS: There are two seasons; a rainy season from November through May, and a less rainy season from June through October. The rainy season reach a wet peak in April, and the hottest temperatures of the year come just before that, in February and March. During the rainy season, skies are still more sunny than cloudy, humidities are fairly high, and temperatures are hot to very hot. The combination of heat and humidity makes the sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) from 7° to 10° higher than the actual ones--and they're hot enough! The rains come as a series of intense showers, with dry spells in between. They can become almost continuous in the late afternoon and often persist into the early hours of the night. The "dry" season afternoons are quite sunny, still fairly humid, and hot. Sensible temperatures are usually only one or two degrees higher than actual ones. Nights are warm to mild. The rains at this time of year prefer the mornings, but can still come at any time of day.