

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO HWANGE NATIONAL PARK, ZIMBABWE

LOCATION: Hwange (pronounced WANG'key) National Park is located in western Zimbabwe, up against the border with Botswana. The Park Headquarters is at Main Camp, some ten miles southwest of the airport. The landscape is one of low hills separating a multitude of "pans". These pans are ephemeral shallow lakes--wet in the wet season, and largely dry in the dry season. The vegetation is desert-like to the west, grading into savanna and thorn-scrub in the better-watered east. The chief attractions of the Park are its wildlife: elephants, buffalo, zebra, antelope, baboons, and the occasional lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena, jackal, and wild dog.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:07	12:44	12:13	11:42	11:16	11:02	11:08	11:30	11:59	12:31	12:59	13:14
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:55	7:08	7:58	8:51	9:27	9:20	9:34	9:59	9:40	8:52	7:30	6:48
AREA OF BLUE SKY	33%	33%	54%	62%	75%	82%	83%	87%	86%	65%	43%	32%
LOW FOR MONTH	59 °	59 °	55 °	50 °	42 °	37 °	38 °	41 °	47 °	55 °	57 °	58 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	64 °	64 °	62 °	58 °	50 °	45 °	44 °	49 °	56 °	62 °	64 °	64 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	84 °	83 °	83 °	83 °	79 °	74 °	75 °	79 °	86 °	90 °	87 °	84 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	91 °	90 °	89 °	89 °	86 °	81 °	83 °	88 °	94 °	98 °	97 °	93 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	17%	14%	16%	8%	2%	0%	0%	5%	37%	47%	43%	24%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	51%	53%	46%	39%	32%	31%	29%	25%	22%	25%	39%	49%
DRY DAYS	50%	52%	71%	87%	96%	98%	99%	99%	97%	86%	66%	55%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	66%	69%	83%	93%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	93%	80%	71%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.00	0.93	0.47	0.17	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.17	0.49	0.93
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	50%	47%	27%	12%	2%	2%	0%	1%	4%	21%	46%	49%
FOGGY DAYS	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%

COMMENTS: The climate is a typical tropical wet-and-dry one, featuring two seasons based on rainfall. The rainy season runs from the middle of November through the middle of March in most years. It is highly variable as to when it starts, when it finishes, and how wet it is from one year to the next. The dry season runs from the middle of March through the middle of November, and is very dry. It is a sunny season, with mild to warm afternoons, and low humidities. Most of the rain comes in the form of a series of brief but intense thundershowers, with dry spells in between. Day-long rains are not common, even during the rainy season.