

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE KARIBA AREA, ZIMBABWE

LOCATION: Kariba is located in northwestern Zimbabwe, on the border with Zambia. The town is situated on the shores of Lake Kariba, a reservoir lake that backs up the Kariba Dam. The town was founded in 1955 as a work camp for the construction of the dam. The town consists of scattered and spotty development for about six miles along the lakeshore from the airport to the Zambian border. Elevations along the lake are about 2,000 feet above sea level, but the Kariba Heights area is another 2,000 feet higher than that. Table data are for the lakeshore area.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:00	12:39	12:12	11:45	11:22	11:10	11:15	11:34	12:00	12:28	12:53	13:06
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:53	5:54	6:48	7:59	8:35	8:37	9:07	9:42	9:50	8:55	7:23	5:43
AREA OF BLUE SKY	30%	33%	45%	58%	67%	74%	78%	80%	84%	66%	45%	32%
LOW FOR MONTH	68°	67°	64°	60°	53°	48°	49°	52°	59°	67°	68°	67°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	72°	71°	70°	67°	61°	56°	56°	61°	70°	76°	76°	73°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	87°	87°	88°	88°	84°	80°	79°	84°	91°	96°	93°	88°
HIGH FOR MONTH	94°	92°	94°	94°	91°	87°	85°	93°	99°	103°	102°	97°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	39%	31%	46%	43%	27%	13%	15%	31%	60%	82%	76%	57%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	64%	64%	57%	49%	41%	38%	35%	30%	26%	28%	43%	60%
DRY DAYS	41%	40%	64%	86%	96%	96%	99%	98%	96%	87%	67%	45%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	61%	58%	77%	92%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	94%	81%	65%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.13	1.30	0.66	0.23	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.10	0.50	1.09
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	44%	43%	26%	9%	2%	0%	0%	1%	3%	11%	32%	46%
FOGGY DAYS	6%	6%	6%	4%	5%	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%

COMMENTS: The Kariba area has a tropical three-season year, based on temperature and rainfall. The rainy season runs from late November through late March. The rest of the year is relatively dry, with the May through September period being essentially rainless in most years. The third season overlaps the other two. It is the hot season. It starts in September, before the rains arrive, and ends in November, when the rains become heavy. Below-freezing temperatures do not occur at the lakeshore elevation, although they may occur in the highlands. The lake has very little effect on local climates. Humidities on the lake itself will not be substantially different than those onshore. Temperatures out on the water will be a bit more moderate, but not significantly so.