

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LHASA AREA (TIBET), CHINA

LOCATION: Lhasa is located in the Tibetan Plateau of southwestern China, north of Nepal. The city is situated in the valley of the Lhasa River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra. The Himalayas lie to the south of Lhasa, while the Nyainqentanglha Range (up to 23,255 feet in elevation) lies to the north. Lhasa itself occupies a wide range of elevations, from the valley floor up to the Potala on the crest of Putuo Hill. Most of Lhasa lies between 11,000 and 12,000 feet above sea level.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 10:29 | 11:08 | 11:59 | 12:53 | 13:38 | 14:02 | 13:52 | 13:13 | 12:23 | 11:29 | 10:42 | 10:17 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 8:13 | 8:05 | 7:49 | 8:10 | 9:10 | 8:39 | 7:15 | 7:13 | 7:54 | 9:15 | 8:56 | 8:26 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 72% | 63% | 50% | 45% | 47% | 38% | 27% | 27% | 41% | 71% | 80% | 78% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 7° | 11° | 17° | 25° | 32° | 42° | 43° | 42° | 38° | 26° | 15° | 7° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 14° | 20° | 27° | 34° | 41° | 49° | 50° | 49° | 46° | 34° | 23° | 16° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 44° | 48° | 54° | 60° | 67° | 73° | 72° | 70° | 68° | 61° | 53° | 46° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 55° | 60° | 64° | 69° | 76° | 81° | 79° | 76° | 73° | 69° | 62° | 56° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 71% | 60% | 48% | 31% | 11% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 4% | 60% | 89% | 88% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 14% | 12% | 14% | 18% | 24% | 31% | 41% | 43% | 39% | 28% | 18% | 15% |
| DRY DAYS | 99% | 98% | 96% | 89% | 79% | 59% | 40% | 38% | 57% | 90% | 99% | 99% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 99% | 99% | 99% | 98% | 90% | 78% | 65% | 65% | 77% | 96% | 99% | 99% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.16 | 0.45 | 0.80 | 0.79 | 0.39 | 0.06 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| SNOWY DAYS | 3% | 3% | 6% | 7% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 3% | 3% | 2% |
| THUNDER DAYS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 5% | 16% | 34% | 46% | 44% | 29% | 5% | 0% | 0% |
| FOGGY DAYS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

COMMENTS: Lhasa has a mountain version of the Asian Monsoon climate. Its high elevation means that low winter temperatures have to be considered. This gives the area four seasons. Spring brings lengthening days and warming temperatures. Streams and rivers flood as the winter snows begin to melt at the higher elevations. Summer brings real flooding along with the summer monsoonal rains and warm temperatures. Even during the peak of the monsoon, most of the days have no significant rain, and the rainy ones have long rainless periods. Autumn sees the best weather of the year. Skies are clear and sunny, and the weather is still mild--although getting colder. Most of the mornings are now frosty. Winter is cold and very dry. The air is usually clear and sparkling--especially at night. Snowfalls in Lhasa itself will occur about eight times a winter, and are limited mostly to flurries because of the dry air. Snow on the ground is rare in the city, but the neighboring mountains will be snow-capped all year around.