

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LIJIANG AREA (YUNNAN), CHINA

LOCATION: Lijiang is located in a scenic valley in the mountains of Yunnan in southwestern China. The city is situated on the banks of the Yu-He River, a tributary of the Yangtze. The town and valley are the center of the Naxi culture, a matriarchal and matrilineal society descended from Tibetan nomads.

Elevations in town are close to 8,000 feet above sea level, with the nearby Jade Dragon Snow Mountain rising to some 18,360 feet in elevation just to the north of the city. The area was badly damaged in the earthquake of February, 1996.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:39	11:14	12:00	12:48	13:28	13:49	13:40	13:06	12:21	11:33	10:51	10:29
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:28	7:47	7:21	6:58	7:58	7:02	6:04	6:33	5:16	6:54	7:47	7:46
AREA OF BLUE SKY	73%	62%	57%	47%	43%	30%	26%	30%	30%	44%	61%	72%
LOW FOR MONTH	24 °	28 °	32 °	39 °	44 °	51 °	53 °	51 °	47 °	39 °	30 °	25 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	32 °	36 °	41 °	47 °	53 °	58 °	59 °	57 °	55 °	48 °	38 °	31 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	56 °	57 °	62 °	67 °	73 °	74 °	73 °	73 °	70 °	67 °	63 °	57 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	63 °	67 °	70 °	76 °	82 °	83 °	82 °	80 °	78 °	74 °	70 °	65 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	50%	22%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	50%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	27%	29%	33%	39%	41%	58%	63%	62%	65%	52%	39%	30%
DRY DAYS	97%	89%	83%	79%	67%	35%	27%	32%	29%	64%	90%	95%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	98%	95%	91%	82%	59%	49%	56%	57%	79%	95%	99%
DRY HOURS	97%	93%	90%	87%	84%	68%	65%	70%	68%	81%	89%	97%
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	3%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	3%	6%	14%	31%	38%	37%	30%	9%	3%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 60% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 43% during the rainy summer monsoon, to a high of 80% in January during the dry winter monsoon. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 22°, and the highest should be near 85°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be somewhat higher than actual ones during the humid afternoons of the rainy monsoon period, and pretty much the same as actual ones at other times. The dry monsoon of winter is by far the best time for a visit. Afternoons are cool, but sunny, the streams are fordable, and the trails in relatively good condition. The dry northeast monsoon blows from late October through early May. The rainy southwest monsoon reigns from late May through early October. Starting and ending dates and the severity of the monsoons varies from one year to another.