

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO LEH AND THE LADAKH AREA, INDIA

LOCATION: Leh is located in far northwestern India. It is the capital of the Ladakh district in the Kashmir province of India. The town is situated in a small fertile valley northeast of the Indus River. Back of the town, the Ladakh Mountains tower to more than 20,000 feet. The town has a magnificent view of the snow-capped Stok Mountains south of the river. Elevations in town vary with specific location, but are in the neighborhood of 11,600 feet above sea level. Gradual acclimatization by visitors is a must.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:10	10:57	11:57	13:01	13:56	14:24	14:12	13:26	12:26	11:22	10:26	9:56
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:46	4:34	5:02	6:14	7:30	7:58	7:59	7:28	7:56	8:02	7:20	5:05
AREA OF BLUE SKY	35%	38%	37%	44%	47%	55%	52%	48%	62%	69%	64%	45%
LOW FOR MONTH	-4 °	-3 °	9 °	21 °	29 °	35 °	42 °	43 °	33 °	22 °	13 °	1 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	8 °	10 °	21 °	30 °	36 °	44 °	50 °	50 °	42 °	31 °	20 °	13 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	29 °	33 °	44 °	55 °	63 °	70 °	76 °	76 °	70 °	58 °	47 °	35 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	37 °	45 °	57 °	65 °	72 °	80 °	83 °	81 °	77 °	69 °	55 °	46 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	98%	98%	67%	17%	0%	0%	0%	5%	66%	96%	98%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	43%	39%	36%	28%	24%	23%	30%	32%	28%	25%	29%	34%
DRY DAYS	81%	86%	87%	90%	90%	93%	87%	84%	90%	94%	97%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	91%	93%	94%	94%	95%	96%	94%	90%	94%	97%	98%	92%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.09	0.10	0.06	0.04	0.01	0.04
LIKELY SNOWFALL	3.4 "	4.0 "	1.3 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.2 "	1.3 "
SNOWY DAYS	11%	13%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	7%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Leh's climate is a mountain version of a continental desert. The elevation keeps the temperatures lower than they would be a sea level (see "Things to Know", below). Humidities are generally low, and precipitation is both sparse and unreliable. Virtually all crop growth depends upon irrigation. Within this framework, you can expect short warm summers and long very cold winters. Spring and autumn are distinguished by their effects on vegetation. Climatically, they are seasons of transition, with spells of cold weather chasing spells of mild weather across the calendar. Snow flurries are common during the winter months, but heavy falls are rare at this elevation because of the low precipitation totals. It takes ten to fifteen measures of snow (depending upon how "wet" it is) to melt down to one measure of precipitation. At higher elevations, of course, snowfalls are heavier and stay on the ground longer.