

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE KATHMANDU AREA, NEPAL

LOCATION: Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, is located in the east-central part of the country. The city is situated on the banks of the Bagmati River, in the fertile Kathmandu Valley. This valley runs in an east-west direction. It is bordered by the Himalayas to the north, and by the Mahabharat Hills to the south. Elevations in the city are around 4,400 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:37	11:12	11:59	12:49	13:31	13:52	13:43	13:08	12:21	11:32	10:49	10:26
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	9:00	9:35	10:16	10:31	10:35	9:09	7:23	7:19	7:37	9:11	9:20	9:04
AREA OF BLUE SKY	81%	82%	82%	78%	73%	57%	42%	45%	52%	75%	83%	84%
LOW FOR MONTH	32°	35°	40°	47°	54°	62°	65°	65°	61°	49°	39°	33°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	37°	41°	46°	54°	61°	67°	69°	68°	66°	57°	47°	39°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	64°	67°	75°	82°	84°	84°	83°	82°	82°	78°	72°	65°
HIGH FOR MONTH	71°	75°	84°	90°	92°	92°	87°	87°	87°	85°	79°	74°
FROSTY MORNINGS	15%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	63%	52%	51%	60%	71%	81%	82%	81%	77%	75%	71%
DRY DAYS	91%	89%	87%	77%	59%	36%	21%	21%	44%	82%	97%	97%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	96%	93%	93%	87%	75%	56%	34%	42%	63%	89%	99%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.14	0.15	0.20	0.34	0.65	1.52	2.41	2.17	1.15	0.37	0.04	0.02
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	3%	11%	21%	30%	26%	21%	22%	24%	8%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	51%	39%	17%	4%	3%	0%	0%	2%	10%	45%	53%	50%

COMMENTS: Kathmandu has a sub-tropical four-season year. These seasons, however, are not the familiar ones common to the mid-latitudes. The dominant season by far is that of the Southwest Monsoon. It runs from June through September in most years. It is moderately sunny, hot, humid, and very rainy. This is followed by the post-monsoon season, which usually includes the months of October and November. It is sunny, warm, humid and features a diminishing frequency of rains. By December, the rains are gone, and the dry winter Northeast Monsoon holds sway until sometime in March. Days are very sunny, mild to warm, and quite dry. Afternoon temperatures gradually increase, and by April the hot pre-monsoon season starts. Days are frequently hot and occasionally very hot. Humidities start out fairly moderate in the early season and become more and more humid as the season wears on. Skies start getting increasingly cloudy. The onset of the forthcoming monsoons is heralded by increasingly frequent spells of thunderstorms. The starting dates and duration of all of these seasons varies considerably from on year to the next, and is the subject of intense speculation.