

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SANAA AND THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS, YEMEN

LOCATION: Sanaa, the capital of Yemen, is located in the northwestern portion of that country. The city is situated in the fertile Sanaa Basin, some 7,380 feet up in the Western Mountains. The highest peak in the range, Jaban an-Nabi Shu'ayb, rises to 12,336 feet in elevation just a short distance west of the city.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:20	11:38	12:03	12:29	12:51	13:02	12:57	12:39	12:14	11:49	11:26	11:15
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	10:05	9:43	8:55	9:30	8:53	10:01	7:16	8:15	9:34	10:31	9:49	9:54
AREA OF BLUE SKY	84%	78%	67%	68%	63%	71%	49%	56%	72%	84%	83%	84%
LOW FOR MONTH	34 °	40 °	44 °	48 °	47 °	53 °	54 °	52 °	51 °	40 °	37 °	36 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	42 °	47 °	50 °	53 °	55 °	58 °	59 °	59 °	55 °	46 °	43 °	41 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	72 °	75 °	77 °	77 °	80 °	83 °	83 °	81 °	80 °	76 °	72 °	71 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	80 °	81 °	84 °	84 °	87 °	90 °	93 °	88 °	88 °	85 °	79 °	78 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	6%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	26%	27%	30%	31%	24%	21%	27%	31%	23%	25%	27%	26%
DRY DAYS	98%	94%	86%	83%	90%	98%	86%	76%	96%	97%	99%	99%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	98%	94%	90%	94%	99%	93%	85%	99%	99%	99%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.01	0.04	0.13	0.26	0.22	0.02	0.15	0.47	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.01
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	4%	8%	8%	4%	2%	6%	8%	2%	1%	1%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	12%	10%	13%	10%	9%	16%	19%	14%	6%	2%	3%	4%

COMMENTS: The year is divided into four seasons, based entirely on expected rainfall. The fact that this rainfall sometimes does not appear has no bearing on the matter. The cool dry season runs from September through February. Days are somewhat shorter, but very sunny. Frosts may occur on still nights, but there is no real vegetative dormancy. This is the season of the northeast monsoons, although the wind patterns are much more irregular than that name implies. The small rains usually come as a series of light falls from March through May. Some years they don't come at all, some years they are quite heavy. June and early July are the summer dry spell, and the hottest season of the year. The Southwest Monsoon brings the major rains of the year sometime (and sometimes not) from late July through August. Both the times of occurrence and the amounts vary considerably from one year to the next. Snow flurries do occur on occasion, but ground accumulations are rare at this elevation. Some of the higher elevations are snow-covered for long periods during the winter. Most of the rain falls in a series of short and very intense showers during rainy spells.