

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO LA PAZ AND THE ALTIPLANO, BOLIVIA

LOCATION: La Paz is Bolivia's largest city, and its commercial and cultural center. La Paz is located in the high Altiplano of west-central Bolivia. Despite its elevation of over 11,000 feet above sea level, La Paz is situated at the bottom of a deep valley where it is sheltered from the fierce winds that characterize most of the Altiplano. Just outside of town, perpetually snow-capped Mount Illimani rises to well over 21,000 feet in elevation.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:00	12:39	12:12	11:45	11:22	11:10	11:15	11:34	12:00	12:28	12:53	13:06
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:37	5:19	5:04	5:55	7:35	8:12	8:01	7:28	6:42	6:09	5:52	5:47
AREA OF BLUE SKY	23%	25%	32%	47%	67%	71%	73%	66%	53%	43%	35%	26%
LOW FOR MONTH	37°	38°	36°	34°	29°	27°	26°	27°	30°	33°	35°	36°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	41°	41°	41°	38°	35°	32°	31°	33°	36°	38°	40°	41°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	60°	60°	61°	62°	61°	59°	59°	60°	61°	63°	64°	62°
HIGH FOR MONTH	69°	67°	68°	68°	67°	64°	64°	66°	69°	70°	70°	70°
FROSTY MORNINGS	2%	2%	5%	19%	62%	87%	92%	78%	52%	23%	10%	6%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	58%	55%	52%	45%	32%	28%	27%	30%	35%	39%	40%	48%
DRY DAYS	32%	40%	55%	72%	87%	92%	93%	86%	72%	71%	64%	46%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	67%	69%	77%	86%	95%	97%	98%	95%	87%	85%	82%	73%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.74	0.72	0.45	0.22	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.19	0.24	0.33	0.59
LIKELY SNOWFALL	2.0"	0.7"	1.2"	1.0"	1.0"	1.9"	2.8"	3.2"	4.3"	2.7"	1.7"	2.5"
SNOWY DAYS	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	5%	6%	10%	11%	5%	3%	4%
THUNDER DAYS	37%	33%	29%	21%	5%	2%	1%	5%	11%	22%	27%	34%
FOGGY DAYS	27%	28%	28%	27%	14%	16%	18%	18%	23%	21%	20%	22%

COMMENTS: La Paz has a high-elevation version of the tropical two-season year. The elevation means that temperatures are quite low for the tropics and that no month can be counted on to be frost-free. In tropical fashion, the rainy season corresponds to the high-sun period, October through March. However, this does not make it the sunniest season--it is not. Cloud cover is at its thickest and most frequent in January, with available sunshine at a minimum. Nightly temperatures are at their highest, while rainfall is at its heaviest and most frequent. Six months later, all of this is reversed. The dry season (April through September) includes July, where the clouds are thinnest, sunshine most abundant, rainfall and rainy days at a minimum, and nightly temperatures at their lowest. Much of the rain falls as thundershowers, frequently mixed with hail, sleet, and snow. Mountain thunderstorms are extremely intense.