

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE TONGA ISLANDS, SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

LOCATION: The Kingdom of Tonga consists of some 171 islands (about 40 of which are inhabited) scattered in several groups in the South Pacific some 900 miles to the northeast of New Zealand. The total land area is less than 700 square miles. The capital is at Nuku'alofa, on the largest of the islands, Tongotapu. Elevations range from sea level to some 3,638 at the summit of Kao, in the Ha'apai archipelago.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:16	12:49	12:14	11:38	11:08	10:53	10:59	11:24	11:58	12:34	13:07	13:24
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:09	5:53	5:38	5:21	5:10	5:14	5:42	6:23	6:47	6:23	6:21	6:43
AREA OF BLUE SKY	24%	24%	26%	26%	36%	39%	38%	40%	35%	32%	31%	25%
LOW FOR MONTH	68 °	69 °	68 °	66 °	64 °	59 °	58 °	59 °	59 °	62 °	64 °	66 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	73 °	74 °	74 °	72 °	69 °	66 °	65 °	66 °	66 °	68 °	70 °	70 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	84 °	85 °	84 °	83 °	80 °	78 °	78 °	77 °	78 °	78 °	81 °	82 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	87 °	88 °	88 °	86 °	85 °	83 °	83 °	82 °	83 °	84 °	85 °	86 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	72%	72%	73%	71%	72%	72%	69%	69%	69%	70%	70%	69%
NEARBY WATERS	80 °	81 °	81 °	79 °	78 °	76 °	75 °	74 °	74 °	75 °	76 °	79 °
DRY DAYS	52%	47%	46%	51%	59%	60%	69%	74%	63%	68%	67%	57%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	60%	55%	57%	68%	74%	76%	79%	81%	76%	78%	76%	71%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.31	1.58	1.49	1.03	0.82	0.67	0.64	0.70	0.73	0.77	0.81	0.94
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	17%	17%	18%	11%	6%	4%	1%	1%	3%	7%	10%	13%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: The islands have a two-season tropical climate. The rainier and warmer of the two seasons runs from November through April, the less rainy and somewhat cooler season takes in the rest of the year. The highest temperatures of the year are likely to be in the high 80's, with the lowest in the high 50's. Humidities are high at all times of day and in all seasons. November through April is the normal hurricane season, but these storms can occur in any month. The islands are not as frequently subject to these violent storms as are some farther west, but they do occur and cause considerable damage. The prevailing winds are out of the east and southeast. When they switch around to other quadrants, they often bring storms.