

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE RALEIGH - DURHAM - CHAPEL HILL AREA, NORTH CAROLINA

LOCATION: The Raleigh - Durham - Chapel Hill metropolitan area (known generally as “the Triangle”) is located in central North Carolina. The three cities are home respectively to North Carolina State University, Duke University, and the University of North Carolina. Located roughly in the middle of these three cities is an area called the Research Triangle Park—home to the research and administrative facilities of a number of Fortune 500 companies. These research facilities have their own staffs, but also draw heavily on the faculties of the three universities—hence its location. The area lies on the Piedmont, and has a landscape of gently rolling, rather heavily-forested countryside. Elevations are around 500 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:02	10:52	11:57	13:05	14:03	14:34	14:21	13:32	12:27	11:19	10:19	9:47
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:03	6:05	7:10	8:19	8:54	9:08	8:46	8:09	7:42	7:10	6:06	5:05
AREA OF BLUE SKY	40%	43%	44%	48%	47%	45%	42%	43%	47%	55%	51%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	11 °	12 °	24 °	33 °	42 °	52 °	58 °	56 °	47 °	34 °	25 °	15 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	28 °	30 °	37 °	47 °	55 °	63 °	67 °	66 °	60 °	47 °	38 °	30 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	50 °	53 °	61 °	72 °	79 °	85 °	89 °	88 °	82 °	72 °	63 °	53 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	65 °	69 °	78 °	85 °	90 °	95 °	98 °	96 °	94 °	86 °	75 °	68 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	69%	66%	35%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	37%	63%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	27%	45%	39%	13%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	56%	51%	48%	45%	51%	54%	57%	58%	57%	53%	52%	55%
DRY DAYS	71%	67%	68%	71%	69%	68%	67%	68%	77%	80%	77%	72%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	77%	76%	80%	77%	80%	77%	79%	83%	84%	83%	81%
DRY HOURS	87%	87%	88%	92%	92%	94%	94%	94%	93%	92%	91%	89%
LIKELY SNOWFALL	2.7"	2.7"	1.8"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	0.7"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	4%	4%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	3%	7%	11%	20%	25%	33%	24%	11%	4%	2%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	9%	7%	5%	3%	5%	4%	5%	6%	8%	8%	8%	8%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 60% of the year’s daylight hours. This might range from a low of 50% in January, to a high of 64% in April. The year’s lowest temperature should be close to 9, and the highest should be near 100°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 6° hotter than actual ones from late June through early September, and up to 3° cooler than actual ones during the rest of the year. Over the course of the year, a bit more than a third of the days will be clear, with October leading the pack with 45% clear days. April sets the pace for spring (36%). Summer gets the fewest clear days, because of the frequent summer afternoon thunderstorms. Winter snowfalls are light and extremely variable from one year to another.