

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AREA, SOUTH CAROLINA

LOCATION: Columbia, the capital of the state of South Carolina, is located in the center of that state. The city is situated where the Saluda and Broad Rivers come together to form the Congaree River. Elevations are some 330 feet above sea level. Columbia is the home of the University of South Carolina, plus a number of other colleges and universities. The countryside is generally level to gently rolling—what in the Southeast is generally referred to as “the Piedmont”.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:10	10:57	11:57	13:01	13:55	14:23	14:11	13:26	12:26	11:22	10:27	9:57
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:26	6:17	7:32	8:59	9:32	9:38	9:04	8:43	7:57	7:41	6:35	5:21
AREA OF BLUE SKY	41%	44%	45%	50%	48%	46%	42%	45%	49%	56%	53%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	18°	20°	26°	34°	45°	56°	63°	57°	51°	36°	26°	20°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	36°	37°	44°	51°	60°	68°	71°	70°	65°	53°	43°	37°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	56°	59°	67°	75°	83°	89°	91°	90°	85°	76°	66°	57°
HIGH FOR MONTH	74°	76°	83°	89°	94°	99°	99°	98°	95°	88°	80°	75°
FROSTY MORNINGS	39%	33%	14%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	17%	36%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	4%	19%	50%	63%	53%	26%	2%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	53%	49%	46%	43%	46%	50%	54%	56%	54%	49%	48%	53%
DRY DAYS	69%	65%	67%	73%	71%	65%	60%	63%	74%	80%	77%	69%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	79%	77%	77%	84%	82%	79%	76%	76%	82%	88%	85%	82%
DRY HOURS	87%	88%	89%	93%	94%	94%	94%	94%	93%	93%	93%	89%
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	4%	7%	13%	20%	30%	37%	30%	13%	4%	2%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	7%	8%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%	6%	5%	8%	8%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 63% of the year’s daylight hours. This might range from a low of 53% in January, to a high of 69% in April and May. The year’s lowest temperature should be close to 14°, and the highest should be near 101°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 5° (August) hotter than actual ones during the summer months, and two to three degrees cooler than actual ones during the winter. The area has a four-season year, with long, sunny, hot, and humid summers. Winters are short and cool rather than cold. Three out of five winter nights will fail to drop below freezing, and winter afternoons are almost invariably above freezing at some time of the afternoon. Snowfall is light, when it appears at all. Some winter get none, others only a flurry or two. Local residents consider spring and autumn the most delightful of the seasons in terms of the weather.