

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO XIGAZE AND THE TASHILHUNPO MONASTERY (TIBET), CHINA

LOCATION: Xigaze (Shigatse) is located in China's province of Tibet. The city is situated on the south shore of the Yarlung (Brahmaputra) River, near the mouth of the Nyang Chu. Elevations are about 12,000 feet above sea level in town, but exceed 20,000 feet in the nearby mountains. Xigaze is the site of the Tashilhunpo Monastery, the seat of the Panchen Lama.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:31	11:09	11:59	12:52	13:36	13:59	13:50	13:12	12:22	11:30	10:44	10:19
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:37	8:51	8:37	9:07	10:26	9:48	7:26	7:07	8:31	9:44	9:25	8:53
AREA OF BLUE SKY	80%	72%	58%	52%	54%	40%	22%	20%	41%	76%	86%	84%
LOW FOR MONTH	-2°	5°	12°	22°	29°	38°	40°	40°	34°	19°	8°	2°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	8°	15°	23°	31°	38°	46°	48°	47°	42°	30°	17°	10°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	42°	46°	52°	60°	67°	72°	70°	67°	66°	60°	51°	44°
HIGH FOR MONTH	54°	57°	62°	72°	75°	78°	77°	74°	75°	70°	61°	57°
FROSTY MORNINGS	99%	98%	92%	60%	16%	1%	0%	0%	2%	64%	98%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	15%	13%	13%	15%	20%	33%	45%	49%	39%	23%	15%	16%
DRY DAYS	98%	99%	97%	95%	86%	63%	37%	29%	60%	93%	99%	99%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	94%	80%	63%	59%	79%	98%	99%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.11	0.40	0.91	1.03	0.35	0.04	0.00	0.00
SNOWY DAYS	2%	1%	3%	4%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	6%	19%	34%	49%	46%	26%	3%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine occurs on 74% of the year's daylight hours. This ranges from a low of 54% during the brief rainy monsoon of July and August, to a high of 88% during the rainless and virtually cloudless northeast monsoon of November. The expected low temperature for the year will be around -3° at some windless winter sunrise, and the high will be near 81° on some sunny summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be several degrees cooler than actual ones. Winds tend to blow strongly down the slopes at night, and rather weakly up the slopes during the daylight hours. Passing storm systems can easily override both of these local winds. Elevation and--to a lesser degree--slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets.