

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO CALCUTTA AND THE HOOGLY, INDIA

LOCATION: Calcutta is located in northeastern India. The densely populated city is situated on the banks of the Hoogly River, one of the many mouths of the combined Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers. The surrounding area is flat and marshy, and the city is only a few feet above sea level. The city is considered the cultural capital of India, and combines scenes of almost incredible squalor with those of surpassing beauty.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:56	11:24	12:01	12:40	13:13	13:30	13:23	12:55	12:18	11:39	11:05	10:47
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:47	8:19	8:08	8:29	8:03	4:30	3:38	3:50	4:29	6:22	7:55	7:56
AREA OF BLUE SKY	83%	77%	72%	63%	49%	26%	18%	20%	27%	53%	75%	82%
LOW FOR MONTH	49°	52°	61°	68°	70°	74°	75°	76°	75°	68°	58°	50°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	55°	60°	69°	76°	77°	79°	79°	78°	78°	74°	65°	56°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	79°	84°	92°	96°	95°	92°	89°	89°	90°	89°	84°	79°
HIGH FOR MONTH	84°	90°	99°	103°	103°	99°	93°	93°	93°	92°	88°	82°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	1%	18%	71%	94%	91%	70%	50%	51%	54%	44%	5%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	52%	46%	45%	54%	63%	75%	80%	82%	80%	72%	61%	56%
DRY DAYS	97%	89%	87%	83%	68%	43%	26%	23%	33%	61%	93%	97%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	93%	94%	90%	78%	57%	42%	42%	55%	79%	97%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.07	0.20	0.21	0.31	0.86	1.87	2.16	2.08	1.77	0.84	0.17	0.05
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	3%	4%	12%	20%	34%	44%	29%	37%	52%	28%	3%	3%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	26%	23%	12%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	7%	18%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 54% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 27% during the peak of the rainy monsoon in July, to a high of 74% during the dry monsoon of December. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 49° on some calm and clear January sunrise, and the highest should be near 104° on some sunny and windless May afternoon before the monsoon breaks. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 10° hotter than actual ones during the April through October period, and pretty much the same as actual ones the rest of the year. Like much of India, Calcutta experiences a three-season year: the cool dry season (November through February) which isn't all that cool or that dry; the hot season (March through early June) when the hottest and most unbearable weather occurs, and the rains (July through October). The rains tend to drop the high temperatures somewhat, but also increase the humidity even further. During the rainy season, about one day in four or five will have no rain at all, and another have only light sprinkles. Even the days with heavy rain, will have frequent dry spells—most of the time. After the heat of the hot season, most Bengalis view the coming of the rains as a godsend.