

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CHIANG MAI AREA, THAILAND

LOCATION: Chiang Mai is located in the mountains of northwestern Thailand. The city is Thailand's second largest (after Bangkok), and is the jumping-off point for much of the surrounding area. Chiang Mai is situated on the Ping River, a tributary of the Chao Phraya. Elevations within the city are around 1,100 feet above sea level, and the surrounding countryside is quite hilly. Doi Inthanon, Thailand's highest peak, rises to more than 8,400 feet about forty miles southwest of the city.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 11:09 | 11:32 | 12:02 | 12:34 | 13:01 | 13:15 | 13:09 | 12:46 | 12:16 | 11:44 | 11:17 | 11:02 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 8:56 | 9:42 | 9:18 | 8:56 | 7:53 | 5:51 | 4:57 | 4:38 | 5:39 | 6:55 | 7:38 | 8:17 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 75% | 80% | 73% | 64% | 48% | 30% | 22% | 21% | 32% | 47% | 58% | 68% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 50° | 52° | 57° | 66° | 70° | 72° | 72° | 72° | 71° | 65° | 59° | 52° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 57° | 58° | 64° | 71° | 74° | 74° | 74° | 75° | 73° | 71° | 66° | 59° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 84° | 90° | 94° | 96° | 93° | 90° | 89° | 88° | 88° | 88° | 86° | 83° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 89° | 93° | 96° | 97° | 97° | 93° | 93° | 93° | 93° | 92° | 91° | 88° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 8% | 63% | 92% | 93% | 81% | 64% | 52% | 42% | 46% | 38% | 16% | 3% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 45% | 38% | 40% | 49% | 59% | 63% | 66% | 68% | 67% | 63% | 57% | 50% |
| DRY DAYS | 97% | 97% | 95% | 82% | 58% | 45% | 42% | 34% | 42% | 67% | 86% | 96% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 99% | 98% | 98% | 89% | 73% | 66% | 60% | 56% | 53% | 78% | 92% | 99% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.04 | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.32 | 0.88 | 0.96 | 1.21 | 1.40 | 1.87 | 0.77 | 0.25 | 0.07 |
| DAYS WITH SOME SNOW | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER | 2% | 2% | 10% | 30% | 62% | 38% | 32% | 39% | 48% | 29% | 6% | 0% |
| DAYS WITH SOME FOG | 14% | 13% | 13% | 8% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 8% | 13% | 18% |

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 61% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 36% in rainy August, to a high of 84% under the Northeast Monsoon of February. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 48° on some calm and clear January sunrise, and the highest should be near 97° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 10° warmer than actual ones during the Southwest Monsoon. The Chiang Mai year has two major seasons, corresponding to the two major monsoons; and two minor between-monsoon seasons. The southwest (rainy) monsoon runs from May through early October, and reaches a peak in September. The post-monsoon season runs from the middle of October through November, and sees the rains taper down to almost nothing. The northeast (dry) monsoon takes in the months of December through February, and is the most pleasant time of year. The pre-monsoon (hot) season includes March and April, and generally see the highest temperatures of the year. Frost does not occur at these elevations, but many trees drop their leaves during the dry season to conserve moisture. August gets more rainy days than does September. The heavier precipitation in September is caused by the fringe effect of tropical storms off the South China Sea. When this moist air is forced up against the mountains, extremely heavy precipitation results.