

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BOGOTA AND THE SAVANNA, COLOMBIA

LOCATION: Bogota is Colombia's capital and largest city. It is located in a high basin (the Savanna) in the midst of the Andes Mountains in the central part of the country. The city is situated on an old lake bed at a elevation of roughly 8,500 feet above sea level. Nearby mountains rise to almost twice that elevation.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:54	11:59	12:06	12:14	12:20	12:24	12:22	12:17	12:09	12:02	11:55	11:52
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:56	5:23	4:35	3:17	3:27	3:38	4:23	4:25	4:16	3:37	4:16	5:03
AREA OF BLUE SKY	41%	39%	27%	20%	21%	21%	22%	26%	24%	22%	24%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	34°	35°	37°	40°	41°	40°	40°	38°	38°	39°	39°	36°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	43°	45°	47°	48°	48°	48°	47°	46°	46°	47°	47°	45°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	67°	67°	67°	66°	66°	65°	64°	65°	65°	65°	66°	66°
HIGH FOR MONTH	72°	72°	73°	72°	70°	69°	69°	70°	70°	70°	71°	71°
FROSTY MORNINGS	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	64%	65%	67%	70%	69%	66%	64%	63%	65%	71%	73%	69%
DRY DAYS	73%	64%	57%	37%	35%	40%	43%	47%	48%	35%	39%	58%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	87%	83%	76%	64%	65%	71%	77%	75%	74%	61%	66%	80%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.32	0.37	0.54	0.86	0.66	0.40	0.30	0.32	0.40	0.93	0.76	0.44
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	15%	18%	27%	31%	25%	9%	7%	8%	23%	41%	36%	19%
FOGGY DAYS	76%	68%	68%	53%	47%	36%	30%	44%	47%	62%	66%	71%

COMMENTS: Bogota has a highland version of the equatorial tropics. Its elevation drops afternoon temperatures about 16° from what they would be at sea level, and drops nighttime temperatures almost twice as much. Consequently, frost, unknown at sea level, occurs three or four times in an average year, usually between December and March. Snow flurries in that same season are rare, but not unknown. The city's equatorial location means that the length of the daylight period does not vary much from one season to another, temperatures do not vary much from one season to another, and the annual rainfall pattern has the two peaks that characterize many equatorial locations throughout the world. One peak comes in October, the second in April. Cold air drainage from the surrounding mountains often pools in the Bogota basin generating heavy fogs and mists. These usually burn off by noon, but not always. Consequently, sunshine is most common in the late morning, after the valley fog has burned off and before the clouds build up over the mountains. December through February has about one clear day in ten--a seasonal high. When the sun does shine on a clear day, its rays are quite intense and can cause painful burns.