

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, ECUADOR

LOCATION: The Archipelago de Colon lies smack-dab on the Equator, with the larger islands just south of it. The islands are better known to speakers of the English language as the Galapagos Islands. This group of islands (five of which are inhabited) lies about 625 miles west of the coast of Ecuador, of which they are an integral political part. The islands are essentially bare volcanic rock, and are bathed by the relatively cool waters of the Equatorial Current. Elevations range from sea level to 4,902 feet above it at the summit of Volcan La Cumbre on Isla Fernandina. The islands are best known for their wildlife, especially the giant tortoises. Visitors are restricted to certain trails and sites, and are not allowed to wander at will. Accommodations are Spartan.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	12:10	12:09	12:07	12:06	12:05	12:05	12:05	12:06	12:07	12:08	12:10	12:11
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:00	7:19	8:10	7:53	7:44	6:30	5:18	4:57	4:50	5:02	5:42	5:51
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	49%	61%	57%	55%	39%	27%	24%	25%	26%	34%	35%
LOW FOR MONTH	67°	67°	70°	70°	66°	64°	62°	61°	61°	62°	64°	65°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	71°	73°	76°	76°	71°	69°	67°	65°	64°	65°	67°	69°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	83°	84°	88°	88°	83°	80°	77°	76°	76°	77°	78°	80°
HIGH FOR MONTH	87°	88°	91°	90°	87°	84°	82°	81°	81°	81°	82°	84°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	71%	69%	63%	65%	68%	65%	70%	70%	70%	69%	66%	68%
NEARBY WATERS	78°	79°	80°	79°	78°	75°	75°	74°	73°	73°	74°	75°
DRY DAYS	63%	66%	73%	77%	84%	85%	61%	60%	55%	63%	70%	68%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	82%	77%	81%	85%	92%	93%	96%	97%	98%	98%	97%	88%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.40	0.71	0.62	0.48	0.21	0.14	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.18
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: The islands have a marine version of the standard tropical two-season year. The rainy season is somewhat less sunny and somewhat warmer. It runs from December through May. The dry season runs from June through November, and is sunnier and somewhat cooler. Extreme variations in rainfall occur from one month to the next and from one year to the next. The *garua* is a dense, wet mist or very light rain which reduces visibility and makes things damp without adding much to the rainfall total. It is most common from May through December, and on the windward exposures. The higher islands get more than the lower ones. Some of the flatter islands get none at all. If it weren't for the *garua*, sunshine totals in the table would be much higher.