

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ALICE SPRINGS AND THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK

LOCATION: Alice Springs is located pretty much in the center of Australia, deep in the “outback”, as the Australians call their back-country. Politically, it lies within the Northern Territories, while economically it is Australia’s premier desert resort. The city is situated on the southern slopes of the Macdonnell Ranges, draining southeast to the Simpson Desert. Elevations around town are close to 2,000 feet above sea level. The mountains behind town rise to roughly 1,700 feet higher.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:25	12:55	12:15	11:34	11:00	10:43	10:50	11:18	11:57	12:38	13:15	13:34
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	10:11	10:11	9:33	9:30	8:19	8:28	9:03	9:43	10:03	10:01	10:20	10:08
AREA OF BLUE SKY	70%	71%	76%	77%	72%	76%	80%	86%	86%	76%	72%	68%
LOW FOR MONTH	58°	58°	52°	42°	35°	30°	28°	32°	37°	45°	51°	55°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	70°	69°	63°	54°	46°	41°	39°	43°	49°	58°	64°	68°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	97°	95°	90°	81°	73°	67°	67°	73°	81°	88°	93°	96°
HIGH FOR MONTH	107°	104°	100°	93°	86°	80°	80°	87°	94°	100°	104°	106°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	13%	17%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	81%	76%	56%	18%	1%	0%	0%	1%	15%	41%	63%	79%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	23%	25%	26%	28%	32%	35%	31%	25%	22%	21%	21%	22%
DRY DAYS	86%	86%	90%	93%	91%	92%	93%	93%	94%	87%	84%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	92%	91%	95%	96%	95%	97%	97%	97%	97%	94%	93%	91%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.28	0.26	0.19	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.11	0.18	0.24
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	7%	6%	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	3%	8%	11%	13%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%

COMMENTS: The high season for this resort community runs from April through October, but the weather is actually pretty good all year around. The high thermometer readings shown in the table are much ameliorated by the low relative humidities during the heat of the day. This makes the “sensible” temperatures (the ones you actually feel) some two to five degrees **cooler** than would otherwise be the case. The low humidities have an effect on the sensible nighttime temperatures as well. This diminution of water vapor in the air combined with the lack of cloud cover means that your body’s heat radiation heads directly for outer space, without being reflected or re-radiated back to you. This makes the temperatures in the hours of dark seem much cooler than the thermometer suggests. A sweater or light jacket will feel very comfortable, especially during the cooler months. Rains are rare enough that even the tourists find them refreshing.