

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ROCKHAMPTON AREA (QUEENSLAND), AUSTRALIA

LOCATION: Rockhampton is located in the state of Queensland, just about where the Tropic of Capricorn intersects Australia's eastern coast. The city is situated on the estuary of the Fitzroy river, and elevations are close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:24	12:54	12:15	11:34	11:01	10:44	10:51	11:19	11:57	12:38	13:14	13:33
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:47	7:13	7:28	7:59	7:36	7:43	8:08	8:43	9:05	8:50	8:52	8:32
AREA OF BLUE SKY	47%	45%	51%	61%	61%	65%	69%	72%	70%	63%	58%	54%
LOW FOR MONTH	66°	67°	63°	54°	46°	40°	38°	40°	47°	53°	60°	64°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	72°	72°	70°	64°	58°	52°	49°	52°	57°	63°	67°	70°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	89°	88°	87°	84°	79°	74°	73°	77°	81°	86°	89°	90°
HIGH FOR MONTH	99°	97°	95°	91°	86°	81°	81°	85°	91°	95°	98°	99°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	49%	37%	21%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	22%	41%	52%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	55%	56%	54%	50%	49%	48%	45%	42%	41%	44%	46%	49%
NEARBY WATERS	80°	80°	79°	76°	74°	71°	69°	69°	70°	73°	77°	78°
DRY DAYS	64%	56%	65%	76%	79%	82%	80%	85%	86%	80%	74%	69%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	78%	76%	82%	89%	91%	92%	92%	95%	94%	89%	86%	82%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.09	1.23	0.71	0.38	0.29	0.35	0.25	0.14	0.19	0.30	0.42	0.73
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	13%	9%	4%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	9%	14%	15%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	1%	2%	7%	7%	8%	6%	5%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Rockhampton residents see the year as having essentially two seasons--summer and winter. These seasons are based upon the solar cycle, rainfall, and temperature; but have quite different characteristics than their European or North American counterparts of the same name. They have more in common with the wet-and-dry tropics characteristic of east coast climates at similar latitudes throughout the world. Summer runs from October through March. It has the longest days, slightly more sunshine, higher temperatures (especially at night), and the most rain. "Winter" is *not* a season of vegetative dormancy. It extends from April through September, has shorter days, lower temperatures (especially at night), and much less rainfall. The Fitzroy valley is subject to strong, cold, downslope winds from the western mountains and uplands, particularly during the winter months. Tropical cyclonic storms move over the coast two or three times a year, mostly from early December through early April. Very few of these reach hurricane strength. They account for much of the rain of that season, and most of its variability.