

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO PUERTO RICO'S WEST COAST

LOCATION: The west coast of the island of Puerto Rico has some of that island's best weather and also some its best beaches. The area in question includes the coastal plain from Punta Agujereada in the north to Punta Aguila in the south. The major city of the west coast is Mayaguez, which has seen better days. Surfers, divers, and whale watchers, however, all head for the Rincon area. Elevations along the coastal plain are all close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:10	11:33	12:02	12:33	12:59	13:13	13:07	12:45	12:16	11:45	11:18	11:04
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	9:36	9:30	10:12	10:21	10:01	11:17	11:12	10:25	10:19	9:52	9:28	9:34
AREA OF BLUE SKY	66%	62%	62%	59%	50%	55%	56%	56%	56%	58%	62%	65%
LOW FOR MONTH	62°	62°	63°	65°	68°	70°	70°	69°	69°	69°	67°	64°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	65°	65°	65°	67°	69°	70°	71°	71°	70°	70°	69°	67°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	84°	84°	85°	86°	87°	88°	88°	89°	89°	88°	87°	85°
HIGH FOR MONTH	87°	87°	89°	90°	90°	92°	91°	92°	92°	91°	89°	88°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	1%	2%	8%	13%	20%	34%	35%	34%	30%	20%	9%	1%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	69%	68%	67%	70%	73%	72%	73%	74%	73%	72%	70%	69%
NEARBY WATERS	79°	78°	79°	79°	81°	82°	83°	83°	84°	84°	83°	79°
DRY DAYS	68%	72%	71%	62%	53%	52%	50%	46%	46%	51%	58%	65%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	79%	83%	83%	73%	69%	63%	69%	66%	66%	67%	73%	74%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.38	0.41	0.49	0.84	1.10	1.27	1.26	1.37	1.33	1.26	0.85	0.52
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	1%	4%	17%	32%	30%	29%	34%	27%	9%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 84% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a "low" of 77% in May, to a high of 87% in December. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 60°, and the highest should be near 94°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 10° warmer than actual ones—with the greatest increase corresponding to the higher actual temperatures. The coast has a tropical two-season year. The high season runs from late November through early April. Although the days are shorter, the percentage of sunshine is greater, the temperatures more pleasant, and the rainy days fewer. The low season takes in the rest of the year. In reality, the weather on any given day of the year could just as easily occur in any month of the year. The official hurricane season runs from June through November, but the chances of encountering one of these tropical storms during the average vacation stay are exceedingly small. In any case, these storms usually approach from the southeast, so the west coast is fairly well protected. Most rain comes from a series of brief but intense showers, with dry and sunny spells in between. Much of the rain falls during the nighttime hours.