

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CHARLESTON AREA, WEST VIRGINIA

LOCATION: Charleston is located in the western foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of southwestern West Virginia. The city is situated in the narrow valleys of the junction of the Kanawha and Elk Rivers. Elevations in the valley are around 600 feet above sea level, with the surrounding hills rising another 500 feet above the valleys. Table data are for the city center. The airport is some 350 higher and somewhat cooler.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:50	10:45	11:56	13:11	14:15	14:48	14:34	13:40	12:29	11:15	10:09	9:34
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:26	4:13	5:27	6:58	8:37	9:45	8:40	7:55	7:07	5:56	4:06	3:20
AREA OF BLUE SKY	22%	25%	27%	32%	34%	36%	35%	37%	38%	40%	28%	25%
LOW FOR MONTH	7°	10°	17°	28°	38°	48°	54°	53°	43°	31°	19°	11°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	26°	27°	34°	43°	52°	61°	65°	64°	57°	46°	35°	28°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	48°	50°	59°	70°	79°	85°	88°	87°	83°	72°	59°	49°
HIGH FOR MONTH	69°	71°	79°	87°	92°	96°	97°	97°	94°	86°	78°	69°
FROSTY MORNINGS	75%	71%	47%	16%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	42%	67%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	16%	26%	18%	7%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	59%	52%	47%	51%	54%	60%	58%	56%	53%	56%	62%
DRY DAYS	56%	59%	58%	59%	62%	64%	65%	68%	74%	74%	67%	62%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	76%	77%	75%	76%	77%	77%	76%	79%	84%	84%	81%	80%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.62	0.61	0.68	0.60	0.63	0.68	0.76	0.69	0.49	0.43	0.50	0.50
LIKELY SNOWFALL	4.8"	4.5"	2.6"	0.3"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	1.1"	3.6"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	5%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	3%	7%	14%	21%	27%	31%	23%	11%	4%	2%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	13%	11%	9%	10%	24%	37%	45%	58%	53%	34%	14%	12%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on about half of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 35% in December and January, to a high of 66% in June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 3° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 99° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° warmer than actual ones during the summer months, due to the relatively high afternoon humidity. During the winter months (December through February) about one day in five will remain below freezing all day long. Nighttime temperatures below zero are not unknown, but do not occur every year. They will be more common in the valleys than on the hilltops. Snowfall is extremely variable from place to place and from year to year. Table values are for the city. The hill may get almost twice as much.