

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LUSAKA AREA, ZAMBIA

LOCATION: Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, is located in the south-central part of the country, not too far from the border with Zimbabwe. The city is situated on an undulating plain some 4,000 feet above sea level. The surrounding area is within the drainage of the Zambezi River.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	12:56	12:37	12:12	11:46	11:25	11:14	11:19	11:36	12:01	12:26	12:50	13:02
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:03	5:16	6:44	8:46	9:03	8:57	9:08	9:39	9:31	9:00	6:55	5:33
AREA OF BLUE SKY	24%	24%	39%	53%	66%	77%	78%	79%	86%	64%	41%	25%
LOW FOR MONTH	60°	60°	57°	54°	48°	43°	43°	45°	50°	57°	59°	61°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	65°	64°	63°	60°	55°	50°	50°	54°	60°	65°	66°	65°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	78°	79°	79°	79°	76°	73°	73°	77°	84°	87°	84°	79°
HIGH FOR MONTH	85°	84°	84°	85°	83°	80°	81°	86°	92°	95°	93°	87°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	34%	27%	2%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	67%	67%	60%	50%	41%	38%	34%	29%	25%	28%	44%	62%
DRY DAYS	37%	37%	59%	90%	97%	99%	99%	99%	99%	90%	66%	43%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	54%	57%	75%	95%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	96%	79%	63%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.41	1.31	0.67	0.13	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.58	1.17
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	45%	42%	25%	7%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	10%	31%	48%
FOGGY DAYS	7%	7%	6%	3%	4%	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%

COMMENTS: Lusaka has an upland version of the two-season tropical wet-and-dry year. The rainy season runs from November through March, with the dry season taking up the rest of the year. This dry season is very dry, whereas the rainy season is only moderately rainy. The four-thousand-plus elevation of the area keeps temperatures from getting as hot as they might otherwise get, but the latter part of the dry season can be pretty uncomfortable. Most of the rain comes as a series of brief heavy thundershowers, with dry (and sometimes sunny) spells in between. The favored time of day for these showers is in the early afternoon, with just before midnight and just before sunrise tied for second place. Twilight is brief in the tropics, but this brevity has been much exaggerated by writers. Typically, there is about 22 minutes of twilight before sunrise, and a similar amount after sunset. While this is a long way from the extended periods of twilight found in the upper mid-latitudes, it is certainly not negligible.