

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE VICTORIA FALLS AREA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE

LOCATION: The Victoria Falls are located on the Zambezi River, which forms the northwest border of Zimbabwe and the southern border of Zambia. The Falls plummet some 350 feet from a plateau into a series of gorges. The entire area has been protected by a patchwork collection of National Parks on both sides of the border. The major towns in the area are Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe side and Livingstone on the Zambia side. Elevations are around 3,000 feet above sea level on the plateau where the towns are located.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:04	12:42	12:13	11:43	11:18	11:05	11:11	11:31	11:59	12:30	12:57	13:11
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:30	6:45	8:00	9:06	9:45	9:36	9:49	10:09	9:51	8:57	7:21	6:27
AREA OF BLUE SKY	36%	40%	56%	72%	82%	83%	85%	85%	78%	64%	46%	35%
LOW FOR MONTH	61 °	61 °	57 °	51 °	42 °	36 °	37 °	41 °	48 °	58 °	60 °	60 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	66 °	66 °	64 °	59 °	50 °	44 °	44 °	49 °	58 °	65 °	66 °	66 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	85 °	85 °	86 °	86 °	82 °	78 °	78 °	83 °	90 °	94 °	90 °	86 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	93 °	91 °	91 °	91 °	89 °	84 °	86 °	91 °	98 °	101 °	100 °	95 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	23%	20%	21%	13%	3%	0%	0%	8%	52%	66%	62%	34%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	53%	55%	45%	37%	29%	29%	27%	23%	20%	22%	37%	50%
DRY DAYS	44%	47%	70%	88%	97%	99%	99%	99%	98%	86%	66%	51%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	62%	65%	81%	94%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	93%	80%	67%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.13	1.07	0.53	0.15	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.16	0.50	1.08
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	66%	63%	37%	15%	2%	2%	0%	1%	3%	24%	54%	62%
FOGGY DAYS	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%

COMMENTS: The region enjoys an upland version of the standard two-season tropical year based on rainfall. A third season, based on temperatures is superimposed on the basic two. The rainy season coincides with the high-sun period, and runs from late November through early March in most years. There is strong year-to-year variability in when it starts, when it finishes, and how rainy it gets. Most of the rain comes in the form of brief but intense showers, usually accompanied by thunder and lightening. On rainy days it is almost impossible to see much of the Falls because of the heavy mist. On the other hand, wet season flows are much greater and more impressive. The dry season extends from late March through the middle of November, and coincides with the low-sun period. Below-freezing temperatures have been recorded in this season, usually around sunrise, but most years are frost-free. This dry season brings better views of the Falls, but lesser flows. The best photographic sites are on the Zimbabwe side, but there are fewer amenities there (and fewer tourists).