

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LACCADIVE ISLANDS, INDIA

LOCATION: The Laccadive Islands are a Union Territory of India, and are now known collectively as Lakshadweep. These coral islands are located in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Kerala. There are about three dozen of the islands, of which a dozen (more or less, depending) are inhabited. The capital is at Kavaratti. Elevations are everywhere very, very close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:34	11:47	12:04	12:22	12:38	12:46	12:43	12:30	12:12	11:54	11:38	11:30
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:42	7:45	8:24	8:30	6:11	3:10	4:09	4:30	5:34	6:10	6:56	7:34
AREA OF BLUE SKY	56%	56%	60%	50%	32%	16%	20%	23%	32%	33%	43%	54%
LOW FOR MONTH	70°	71°	73°	75°	75°	74°	73°	73°	74°	72°	72°	70°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	74°	76°	78°	80°	80°	78°	77°	77°	77°	77°	75°	74°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	86°	86°	88°	90°	90°	87°	86°	86°	86°	86°	86°	86°
HIGH FOR MONTH	89°	90°	92°	94°	95°	91°	89°	88°	89°	90°	90°	90°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	1%	3%	20%	56%	46%	9%	5%	2%	2%	3%	4%	2%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	72%	72%	72%	74%	77%	80%	80%	80%	79%	78%	77%	75%
NEARBY WATERS	81°	82°	83°	85°	85°	83°	82°	81°	81°	82°	82°	80°
DRY DAYS	92%	94%	94%	87%	63%	28%	31%	42%	47%	58%	70%	85%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	97%	98%	91%	76%	43%	52%	63%	67%	67%	78%	90%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.20	0.09	0.07	0.30	1.04	2.11	1.67	1.26	1.00	1.07	0.74	0.38
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	2%	4%	9%	15%	10%	4%	1%	2%	6%	8%	3%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: The islands enjoy a marine version of the tropical two-season year. The seasons are based on rainfall, since the temperature variation and the variation in the length of the daylight period are both small. The rainy season usually runs from the middle of May through November, with a peak in June, and a gradual tapering-off into the dry season. The dry season is generally January through April. May and December are months of transition, being wet one year and dry another. Humidities are high, as befits low islands in the middle of a tropical sea. The prevailing winds are out of the north throughout the year. They blow from the northwest most of the time, switching to the northeast in December and January. In general, the latitude is too low for most severe tropical storms. Sketchy evidence suggests that about one storm in five years passes close enough to cause concern. The island's low elevations are not conducive to weathering severe tropical storms.