

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE NIKKO AREA (HONSHU), JAPAN

LOCATION: Nikko is located in the prefecture of Tochigi, in the east-central part of the island of Honshu. This mountain community is situated along the banks of the Daiya-gawa River, some 75 miles north of Tokyo. Elevations vary with your distance up the valley, but average more than 4,000 feet above sea level. Nikko National Park is to the north and west of the town.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:58	10:50	11:57	13:07	14:07	14:38	14:25	13:35	12:28	11:18	10:16	9:43
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:43	5:46	6:14	5:52	5:56	3:39	3:40	4:24	3:17	4:20	5:10	5:37
AREA OF BLUE SKY	47%	41%	38%	33%	28%	13%	13%	20%	16%	31%	45%	52%
LOW FOR MONTH	10°	11°	13°	24°	30°	43°	52°	54°	45°	32°	24°	15°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	17°	18°	22°	33°	41°	50°	57°	59°	53°	41°	32°	23°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	30°	30°	37°	49°	58°	63°	69°	72°	64°	54°	46°	36°
HIGH FOR MONTH	41°	43°	46°	59°	67°	73°	77°	78°	73°	62°	56°	48°
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	98%	93%	47%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	53%	92%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	58%	59%	59%	61%	63%	76%	78%	77%	78%	70%	64%	59%
DRY DAYS	52%	51%	53%	54%	58%	42%	34%	43%	38%	55%	60%	65%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	83%	78%	74%	70%	70%	58%	50%	48%	48%	68%	77%	86%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.27	0.45	0.59	0.95	1.10	1.49	1.70	2.42	2.26	1.18	0.55	0.28
LIKELY SNOWFALL	17.4"	22.7"	24.9"	6.2"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	3.5"	11.6"
SNOWY DAYS	48%	49%	47%	21%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	25%	35%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	2%	5%	8%	13%	14%	5%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	9%	17%	21%	30%	31%	47%	47%	41%	46%	29%	20%	9%

COMMENTS: The area has an upland version of the standard mid-latitude four-season year. Its elevation makes temperatures some fifteen degrees cooler than would otherwise be the case. August is the warmest month, and August afternoons are generally cloudy and occasionally overcast. Afternoon humidities are high, and temperatures are warm to mild. Hot days do not occur in most years. August nights are damp and cool to mild. January is the coldest month, and January afternoons are fairly sunny, moderately humid, and below freezing more often than not. January nights are very cold, and usually clear. Almost all the precipitation that falls comes as snow. The ground is usually frozen and snow-covered from the middle of December through early April. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300-foot increase in elevation--and *vice-versa* going downhill.