

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SAPPORO AREA (HOKKAIDO), JAPAN

LOCATION: Sapporo is the capital and primate city of the island of Hokkaido, the northernmost of the major Japanese islands. The city is situated on a broad plain between two mountainous areas, with the land sloping down to Ishikara Bay, an inlet of the Sea of Japan. Elevations within the city itself are close to sea level, but rise quickly to the west to more than 6,000 feet above sea level. The city was the host of the 1972 Winter Olympics.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:24	10:30	11:54	13:23	14:39	15:19	15:02	13:57	12:33	11:05	9:47	9:05
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:12	4:00	5:06	6:22	6:41	6:37	5:57	5:58	5:40	5:11	3:32	2:51
AREA OF BLUE SKY	26%	25%	29%	35%	32%	29%	25%	29%	34%	40%	30%	27%
LOW FOR MONTH	1°	0°	8°	22°	32°	42°	51°	54°	42°	30°	20°	5°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	14°	15°	22°	34°	43°	52°	60°	63°	53°	41°	31°	21°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	30°	31°	37°	51°	62°	70°	76°	79°	71°	60°	46°	34°
HIGH FOR MONTH	41°	41°	50°	67°	78°	82°	88°	89°	83°	73°	62°	49°
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	98%	87%	26%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	47%	92%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	66%	64%	57%	59%	66%	70%	69%	65%	60%	64%	67%
NEARBY WATERS	38°	38°	38°	41°	46°	53°	62°	67°	65°	58°	49°	42°
DRY DAYS	35%	37%	46%	65%	67%	71%	71%	68%	63%	53%	49%	43%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	68%	70%	73%	81%	82%	83%	82%	78%	75%	71%	71%	71%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.62	0.55	0.45	0.39	0.39	0.45	0.48	0.75	0.87	0.74	0.69	0.64
LIKELY SNOWFALL	59.0"	45.6"	27.2"	4.5"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"	12.9"	40.6"
SNOWY DAYS	65%	63%	54%	22%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	47%	57%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	3%	3%	7%	4%	4%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	19%	17%	14%	11%	7%	7%	8%	5%	3%	7%	14%	17%

COMMENTS: The area has a four-season temperate marine climate. Its island location keeps the winters from being as cold as similar latitudes on the mainland of Asia. Precipitation is abundant in all months, with a distinct winter maximum that comes mostly as snow. The ground is usually frozen and snow-covered from November through early April. Summer afternoons are long, somewhat cloudy, quite humid, and warm more often than hot. Summer nights are generally mild to cool. Winter afternoons are short, cloudy, quite humid and quite cold. It snows, if only flurries, almost every day. Winter nights are very cold, and below-zero temperatures occur once or twice almost every year. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition, when the passage of frontal systems brings alternating warm spells and cold spells.