

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE COLOMBO AREA, SRI LANKA (CEYLON)

LOCATION: Colombo, the capital and largest city of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon), is located on the southwestern shore of that island nation. The city is situated on a small point of land thrust into the Indian Ocean, and just south of the outlet of the Kelani River. Elevations are all close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:47	11:55	12:05	12:17	12:26	12:31	12:29	12:21	12:10	11:59	11:49	11:44
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:45	8:30	8:51	7:51	6:21	6:15	6:18	6:30	6:21	6:21	6:54	6:57
AREA OF BLUE SKY	47%	52%	49%	33%	24%	20%	22%	24%	25%	26%	31%	41%
LOW FOR MONTH	68°	68°	71°	73°	72°	73°	73°	73°	73°	72°	70°	68°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	73°	73°	75°	77°	78°	78°	78°	78°	77°	76°	74°	73°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	86°	87°	88°	88°	87°	85°	85°	85°	85°	85°	85°	85°
HIGH FOR MONTH	91°	93°	91°	92°	90°	88°	89°	87°	89°	89°	89°	90°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	12%	14%	26%	39%	19%	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%	7%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	65%	64%	65%	69%	75%	77%	76%	75%	74%	75%	74%	68%
NEARBY WATERS	80°	81°	83°	84°	83°	81°	80°	80°	80°	81°	82°	80°
DRY DAYS	71%	77%	65%	42%	26%	27%	50%	53%	43%	31%	35%	61%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	80%	83%	75%	58%	42%	52%	69%	73%	63%	45%	46%	72%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.58	0.53	0.82	1.57	2.36	1.44	0.87	0.71	1.06	2.22	2.12	0.98
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	10%	15%	29%	49%	28%	7%	3%	4%	6%	21%	29%	22%
FOGGY DAYS	3%	5%	4%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%	3%	3%

COMMENTS: Colombo has an equatorial four-season climate, with two rainy seasons and two less rainy seasons. There is not much variation in either the length of the day or in afternoon temperatures from one month to another. The northeast monsoon dominates from November through March or early April, while the southwest monsoon hold sway for the rest of the year. Oddly enough, the rainiest weather comes not at the peak of the two monsoons, but during their transition periods. The occurrence of rainfall is fairly well distributed through the twenty-four hours of the day, with non-thunderstorm activity showing a slight preference for the nighttime hours. Thunderstorms, on the other hand, are most common during the late afternoon and early evening. Sri Lanka is well out of the path of the typhoons and other tropical storms that plague both the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. It is too close to the Equator. In any case, the city's location on the southwest coast make it an unlikely target even for the odd rogue storm.