

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO NUWARA ELIYA AND THE MOUNTAINS, SRI LANKA (CEYLON)

LOCATION: Nuwara Eliya is located in the mountains of south-central Sri Lanka. The community was the highest (at 6,200 feet above sea level) and the snootiest of the old British hill stations. Nearby is the peak of Pidurutalagala, at 8,281 feet the highest point on the island.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:46	11:54	12:05	12:17	12:27	12:32	12:30	12:21	12:10	11:59	11:49	11:44
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:30	6:09	6:46	5:44	4:02	3:07	2:38	2:48	3:21	4:09	4:23	4:41
AREA OF BLUE SKY	36%	45%	44%	32%	24%	14%	14%	15%	19%	22%	24%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	34°	34°	37°	41°	43°	50°	49°	48°	45°	45°	43°	35°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	48°	47°	48°	51°	54°	56°	55°	55°	54°	53°	52°	51°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	68°	70°	72°	72°	70°	66°	65°	66°	67°	68°	68°	67°
HIGH FOR MONTH	74°	75°	75°	76°	76°	73°	73°	73°	73°	73°	73°	73°
FROSTY MORNINGS	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	78%	73%	71%	82%	82%	85%	84%	85%	84%	87%	85%	84%
DRY DAYS	59%	72%	65%	49%	44%	20%	27%	30%	34%	31%	29%	44%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	66%	82%	70%	56%	52%	30%	33%	40%	44%	38%	37%	52%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.91	0.47	0.57	0.94	1.33	1.55	1.43	1.12	1.20	1.48	1.44	1.23
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	6%	17%	39%	20%	6%	6%	10%	13%	19%	13%	4%
FOGGY DAYS	9%	6%	3%	3%	3%	5%	0%	8%	3%	3%	3%	5%

COMMENTS: The area has a high-country version of the four-season lowland climate. Its elevation makes temperatures much cooler than lowland areas. At the same time, it gets the two rainy and two less rainy seasons of the lesser elevations. The major rainy season runs from May through July, and corresponds to the southwest monsoon. In August and September, the rain diminishes just a bit--only to increase again to a secondary peak in October (the onset of the northeast monsoon). It then drops steadily through January. February through May is the driest time of year, but still get some rain. Since they originate in much colder air masses well above the ground, snow flurries can and do occur during cool spells at almost any time of year. They are neither common nor rare. Snow on the ground is unheard of at these elevations, but not unknown at the summit of Pidurutalagala. Elevation and--to a lesser degree--slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill.