

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, ANTARCTICA

LOCATION: The Antarctic Peninsula (formerly the Palmer Peninsula) is the most northerly projection of the Antarctic continent. It thrusts northward for almost a thousand miles, past the Antarctic Circle, and towards the tip of South America. Almost all commercial Antarctic tours go to the Peninsula's warmer western side. The eastern side is generally barricaded by pack-ice, and is relatively little known. All areas visited by tours are close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	20:08	16:24	12:54	9:25	6:04	3:44	4:48	7:59	11:22	14:52	18:37	21:55
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:53	3:03	1:52	1:10	0:29	0:08	0:17	0:58	1:40	2:24	3:23	4:26
AREA OF BLUE SKY	19%	19%	21%	25%	29%	32%	34%	31%	29%	26%	22%	21%
LOW FOR MONTH	22°	15°	10°	-4°	-8°	-13°	-14°	-14°	-7°	2°	13°	22°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	29°	28°	24°	17°	13°	9°	6°	6°	12°	19°	24°	28°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	37°	36°	33°	28°	24°	21°	19°	20°	25°	31°	33°	36°
HIGH FOR MONTH	47°	48°	46°	43°	41°	40°	39°	40°	42°	42°	44°	50°
FROSTY MORNINGS	66%	69%	88%	96%	97%	97%	97%	98%	97%	94%	92%	76%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	73%	75%	75%	71%	70%	68%	69%	70%	70%	71%	70%	75%
NEARBY WATERS	29°	31°	30°	29°	29°	29°	29°	29°	29°	30°	29°	29°
DRY DAYS	76%	68%	66%	69%	70%	69%	71%	67%	69%	67%	69%	73%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	88%	84%	82%	85%	86%	86%	86%	85%	86%	86%	86%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.36	0.60	0.65	0.59	0.42	0.49	0.49	0.55	0.53	0.56	0.47	0.43
SNOWY DAYS	27%	29%	35%	36%	34%	36%	39%	38%	41%	39%	37%	31%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	8%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	8%	7%	8%	7%	5%	8%

COMMENTS: The sub-polar marine climate of the Antarctic Peninsula is divided into two seasons by the length of the daylight period, and--to a lesser degree--by the temperature. The prevailing winds are out of the west, off the relatively warm waters of the Antarctic Ocean, rather than off the icy inner depths of the continent itself. This keeps temperatures relatively stable throughout the year. It's the expansion of the ice pack plus the short days that makes the area difficult of access during the winter months, not the temperatures. Snow falls throughout the year, but snowfalls are virtually impossible to measure accurately. There is no way to distinguish between snow that fell from the clouds into the gauge and snow that was picked up from the ground and blown into the gauge. Despite the heavy snowfall, the strong winds tend to keep exposed surfaces remarkably free of snow throughout much of the year.