

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SANTA CRUZ AREA, BOLIVIA

LOCATION: Santa Cruz is the capital of the province of the same name, and is located in southeastern Bolivia. The city is the second largest in the country, after La Paz. Santa Cruz is situated about thirty miles east of the Andean foothills, and at the juncture of three major vegetation zones. To the north is the green lushness of the tropical forest. To the west lies the scrub-covered foothills of the Cordillera Oriental. South and east extends the great Bolivian Chaco, a sea of tall grass that becomes a marsh in the rainy season and semi-desert in dry years. Elevations in the area are about 1,400 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	13:04	12:42	12:13	11:43	11:18	11:05	11:11	11:31	11:59	12:30	12:56	13:11
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:04	5:13	5:26	5:21	4:57	4:51	6:13	7:14	6:50	6:32	5:55	5:28
AREA OF BLUE SKY	23%	26%	31%	32%	30%	30%	44%	54%	46%	40%	32%	27%
LOW FOR MONTH	64 °	64 °	62 °	57 °	51 °	48 °	46 °	49 °	52 °	57 °	59 °	63 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	71 °	71 °	70 °	67 °	64 °	61 °	60 °	62 °	65 °	69 °	70 °	71 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	85 °	86 °	86 °	82 °	78 °	74 °	75 °	80 °	83 °	86 °	87 °	87 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	93 °	94 °	94 °	91 °	87 °	85 °	87 °	90 °	93 °	95 °	94 °	95 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	25%	31%	28%	10%	1%	0%	0%	13%	33%	37%	39%	37%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	66%	63%	63%	67%	67%	60%	51%	51%	54%	58%	63%
DRY DAYS	55%	57%	61%	65%	62%	71%	79%	81%	72%	75%	64%	59%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	74%	78%	79%	83%	82%	86%	91%	93%	89%	87%	82%	76%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.16	0.92	0.78	0.59	0.52	0.52	0.37	0.28	0.40	0.54	0.82	0.95
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	10%	9%	7%	5%	6%	3%	2%	4%	8%	8%	9%	11%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	2%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%

COMMENTS: The diversity of vegetation types is reflected in the climate. There is considerable variation in both temperatures and rainfall from one year to the next. Essentially, the climate is of the tropical wet-and-dry type, but the dry season does not always appear. Generally, October through the middle of April is hot and wet. Mid-April through September is cooler and less wet--occasionally quite dry. Below-freezing temperatures do not occur in most years. The *suaroz* is an outbreak of extremely cold air, usually borne on strong winds from the southeast, off the Argentine Pampas. Temperatures may plummet tens of degrees in only a few hours. The cold air is frequently accompanied by stormy conditions. This phenomena is most common during the cooler months. The *suaroz* does not necessarily occur every year.