

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ORIENTE REGION, ECUADOR

LOCATION: The Oriente (Spanish for “east”) is essentially the eastern half of Ecuador. In shape, it is roughly a half-circle, with the curved part to the east, following the borders with Colombia and Peru. The western boundary is irregular, and is generally conceded to be the thousand-meter (3,281') contour line. Consequently elevations range from that maximum down to about 500 feet above sea level in the Amazonian lowlands along the Peruvian border. The Oriente is given its unifying character by its mantle of dense tropical forest and by the heavy rains that allow its growth.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	12:12	12:10	12:08	12:05	12:03	12:02	12:03	12:04	12:06	12:09	12:12	12:13
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:36	3:25	3:11	3:31	4:08	4:10	4:26	4:26	4:43	4:22	4:05	4:02
AREA OF BLUE SKY	16%	13%	14%	17%	24%	24%	28%	25%	29%	24%	19%	20%
LOW FOR MONTH	57°	57°	58°	57°	57°	55°	55°	55°	55°	57°	56°	58°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	63°	63°	63°	63°	63°	62°	61°	61°	61°	62°	63°	62°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	76°	76°	76°	77°	76°	75°	75°	76°	78°	79°	78°	77°
HIGH FOR MONTH	82°	83°	83°	82°	83°	81°	81°	84°	82°	83°	84°	83°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	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	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	64%	64%	65%	69%	69%
DRY DAYS	22%	23%	18%	13%	13%	16%	18%	25%	19%	21%	19%	24%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	39%	35%	29%	30%	34%	29%	37%	46%	38%	38%	37%	40%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.96	2.26	2.56	3.06	2.60	2.94	2.13	1.95	2.30	2.50	2.34	2.13
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	4%	12%	11%	12%	5%	4%	2%	10%	13%	18%	19%	11%
FOGGY DAYS	23%	41%	34%	15%	6%	5%	5%	18%	12%	9%	8%	18%

COMMENTS: There is very little change in the weather from one month to another, so any talk of seasons is misleading. The range of temperatures from day to night (15°, on the average) is not great by mid-latitude standards, but it is still much greater than the range of temperatures from the warmest month to the coolest (2°, between October and July). Although rainfall totals vary from month to month when viewed as long-term averages, this means nothing in any given year. In any case, the number of rainy days seems to be independent of the total rainfall. In short, there is only one season, a continuous one of cloudy, warm, and rainy days followed by mild and misty nights. Table data reflect conditions at the 1,000-meter level. As you go down in elevation to the lowlands, temperatures will rise about 8°, and total rainfall will diminish. However, little else will change, and you probably won't even notice the difference.