

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CRISTOBAL/COLON AREA, PANAMA

LOCATION: Colon is located on the Caribbean coast of north-central Panama. The city is the capital of the province of the same name, and is Panama's second-largest city—after Panama City. The city is situated at the northwestern end of the Panama Canal. Elevations are everywhere close to sea level. Colon is the site of the Free Zone (*Zona Libre*), the world's second-largest duty-free shopping area (after Hong Kong). Eastward from Colon, lie the white sand beaches of Playa Langosta and the black sand beaches of Playa Maria Chiquita.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:39	11:50	12:05	12:20	12:33	12:40	12:37	12:26	12:11	11:56	11:43	11:36
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:50	6:58	7:01	6:45	5:36	5:05	4:56	5:05	5:25	5:09	5:07	6:01
AREA OF BLUE SKY	46%	46%	45%	41%	30%	25%	23%	26%	30%	29%	30%	39%
LOW FOR MONTH	70°	70°	71°	72°	73°	72°	72°	72°	72°	72°	72°	71°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	76°	76°	77°	77°	76°	76°	76°	76°	75°	75°	75°	76°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	84°	85°	85°	86°	86°	86°	85°	85°	86°	86°	84°	85°
HIGH FOR MONTH	86°	87°	89°	91°	90°	90°	89°	91°	90°	90°	88°	88°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	1%	2%	16%	8%	2%	6%	20%	18%	3%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	74%	74%	74%	74%	79%	79%	82%	82%	76%	77%	79%	78%
NEARBY WATERS	81°	80°	80°	81°	82°	83°	82°	83°	84°	84°	83°	79°
DRY DAYS	53%	54%	61%	53%	32%	22%	20%	18%	24%	25%	17%	29%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	82%	85%	77%	50%	44%	34%	39%	42%	39%	22%	47%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.54	0.28	0.27	0.69	2.06	2.01	2.58	2.46	2.11	2.52	3.73	1.92
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	0%	1%	7%	42%	60%	69%	65%	63%	56%	37%	11%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

COMMENTS: Colon has a two-season tropical climate, with the seasons differentiated by rainfall rather than temperatures. Temperatures never drop below the low 60's, and temperature differences between the warmest month (April) and the coolest (November) are very slight (about 3°). The rainy season runs from May through December, and has more rainy days than dry ones. The relatively dry season runs from January through April, and features more dry days than rainy ones. It still has some rain, however, especially toward the beginning and end of the season. Both the duration and intensity of these seasons vary considerably from one year to another. The prevailing winds are generally out of the northern quadrant, off of the Caribbean Sea. Colon is too close to the Equator to get hurricanes more than once or twice a century. They do get the lesser tropical storms, however, with October and November as the most likely months of the year.