

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO DARIEN NATIONAL PARK, PANAMA

LOCATION: Darien National Park is located in Darien province in extreme southeastern Panama, up against the border with Colombia. Much of the Park is wilderness and little known. Elevations range from sea level on the Gulf of Panama coast to more than 6,000 feet above it in the Darien Mountains on the northern border of the Park. The only road access is by way of the largely unfinished section of the Inter-American Highway that leads to the Darien Gap.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:45	11:53	12:05	12:18	12:28	12:34	12:31	12:22	12:11	11:58	11:48	11:42
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:41	7:20	7:11	6:35	5:03	4:43	4:13	4:14	4:30	4:25	4:30	5:49
AREA OF BLUE SKY	48%	51%	47%	38%	23%	19%	16%	18%	18%	20%	21%	36%
LOW FOR MONTH	68°	68°	69°	70°	70°	71°	71°	70°	70°	71°	70°	70°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	72°	71°	73°	74°	74°	74°	74°	73°	73°	73°	73°	73°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	87°	88°	88°	87°	86°	85°	85°	85°	84°	83°	84°	85°
HIGH FOR MONTH	91°	92°	91°	92°	90°	89°	89°	89°	88°	88°	89°	90°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	31%	42%	53%	52%	27%	16%	19%	17%	11%	6%	8%	18%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	65%	62%	62%	64%	72%	75%	74%	75%	75%	76%	76%	72%
NEARBY WATERS	80°	77°	77°	79°	82°	82°	82°	82°	83°	82°	82°	79°
DRY DAYS	87%	99%	90%	67%	29%	23%	19%	23%	30%	16%	23%	42%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	99%	95%	80%	29%	35%	27%	36%	43%	16%	23%	50%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.05	0.02	0.18	0.60	3.95	2.70	2.74	2.60	2.32	6.06	4.57	1.94
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	10%	30%	39%	30%	71%	71%	70%	29%	30%	29%
FOGGY DAYS	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	6%	4%	2%

COMMENTS: Like the rest of Panama, Darien National Park has a two-season tropical year. Its location less than ten degrees north of the Equator means that there is little change (less than an hour) in the length of the daylight period from one time of year to another. It also means that temperatures do not change significantly (about three degrees) from one time of year to another. The two seasons vary in rainfall amounts and frequency. The rainy season runs from late April through December and is very wet. It has two peaks, one at the beginning, in May; and a second in October. The dry season is short, only late December through early April. Travel is virtually impossible in the area during the rainy season, except along the coast by small coastal steamers. The few roads become either quagmires or raging torrents. The rivers flood, and fill with debris of all kinds. There are no bridges, and the primitive ferries do not operate at this time.