

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE AREQUIPA AREA, PERU

LOCATION: The beautiful city of Arequipa is located high in the scenic Cordillera Occidental of southwestern Peru. The city is situated in a high mountain valley of the Rio Chili. Its elevation is almost 8,300 feet above sea level. Clearly visible from the city center is the symmetrical snow-capped cone of the volcano El Misti (19,101') and the rugged Chachani (19,931').

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	12:59	12:39	12:12	11:45	11:22	11:11	11:16	11:34	12:00	12:28	12:52	13:05
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:53	7:31	7:50	9:30	9:06	9:23	9:02	9:26	9:24	9:24	10:06	9:50
AREA OF BLUE SKY	39%	43%	49%	70%	77%	75%	75%	72%	66%	60%	58%	49%
LOW FOR MONTH	45°	46°	46°	42°	40°	39°	38°	37°	40°	41°	41°	43°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	49°	49°	49°	47°	45°	44°	44°	44°	46°	46°	45°	47°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	69°	69°	69°	70°	70°	70°	70°	70°	71°	71°	71°	71°
HIGH FOR MONTH	74°	73°	75°	75°	76°	74°	74°	74°	76°	75°	75°	75°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	57%	63%	60%	46%	35%	30%	28%	27%	31%	34%	38%	47%
DRY DAYS	83%	81%	87%	96%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	97%	95%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	92%	89%	95%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.20	0.32	0.11	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.05
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	37%	43%	37%	9%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	13%

COMMENTS: Arequipa has a highland desert climate. Precipitation is extremely sparse, and extremely variable from year to year. When it does fall, it is most common from January through March. Unlike many mountain areas throughout the world, thunderstorms are almost unknown in this area. The city's elevation keeps its temperatures from 13° (day) to 18° (night) cooler than cities on the nearby Pacific Coast. Below-freezing temperatures have occurred in every month, but most years pass without them. Snow flurries are not unknown in the city, but are very rare. The nearby mountain peaks, of course, remain snow-capped throughout the year. During the cooler months, cold-air drainage from the nearby mountain slopes pools on the valley floor. There, aided by the somewhat higher relative humidities of the season, they produce the night and morning fogs that are characteristic of the area. These usually burn off by late morning on clear days.