

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CUZCO AREA, PERU

LOCATION: Cuzco, the ancient Incan capital, is located high in the Vilcabamba Mountains of southeastern Peru. Elevations are well over 10,000 feet above sea level, and visitors should guard against altitude sickness. Cuzco is said to be the oldest continuously-inhabited city in the Americas.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	12:50	12:33	12:11	11:49	11:30	11:21	11:25	11:40	12:01	12:24	12:44	12:55
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:27	5:25	5:36	7:09	8:53	9:00	9:35	9:14	8:06	7:24	6:31	5:58
AREA OF BLUE SKY	28%	29%	32%	51%	72%	74%	80%	74%	59%	50%	39%	33%
LOW FOR MONTH	40°	40°	39°	36°	31°	28°	26°	29°	34°	37°	39°	40°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	45°	45°	44°	42°	37°	34°	33°	35°	40°	43°	44°	44°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	66°	66°	67°	68°	68°	67°	67°	68°	68°	69°	69°	69°
HIGH FOR MONTH	73°	73°	73°	74°	74°	72°	72°	74°	74°	75°	75°	74°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	39%	51%	24%	3%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	49%	49%	48%	44%	37%	34%	32%	33%	37%	38%	41%	45%
DRY DAYS	36%	39%	51%	66%	89%	93%	95%	89%	80%	67%	55%	48%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	63%	65%	72%	83%	95%	99%	99%	96%	91%	82%	76%	71%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.99	0.94	0.67	0.28	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.17	0.34	0.49	0.78
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	4%	2%	0%	0%	1%

COMMENTS: Cuzco's latitude, combined with its elevation, gives the city a tropical alpine climate with two seasons. The rainy season runs from the middle of September through the middle of April. The dry season runs the rest of the year. The relatively heavy cloud cover of the rainy season acts to keep the afternoon temperatures from getting much warmer than they do during the dry season. However, the clear nighttime skies of the dry season allow temperatures to drop much lower than they do during the rainy season. Consequently, frosty mornings are common from July through early September. Snow flurries are rare, since this is the dry season, but they are not unknown. The surrounding mountains, of course, will be snow-covered on and off throughout much of the year. Elevation and--to a lesser degree--slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets.