

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO MERIDA AND THE MERIDA MOUNTAINS, VENEZUELA

LOCATION: Merida is located in the Merida Mountains in the northwestern quadrant of the country. The city is situated on a small "meseta", at an elevation of some 5,400 feet above sea level. Pico Bolivar, about eight miles away, rises to more than 16,400 feet in elevation.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:41	11:51	12:05	12:19	12:31	12:37	12:35	12:25	12:11	11:57	11:45	11:38
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:12	7:58	7:17	6:04	6:00	5:48	6:44	6:49	6:32	6:06	6:32	7:38
AREA OF BLUE SKY	32%	29%	25%	16%	16%	16%	20%	20%	18%	14%	16%	26%
LOW FOR MONTH	53°	54°	55°	57°	58°	57°	56°	57°	57°	57°	56°	53°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	57°	58°	59°	61°	61°	61°	60°	60°	60°	60°	60°	58°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	75°	75°	76°	76°	77°	76°	76°	77°	77°	76°	75°	75°
HIGH FOR MONTH	83°	84°	85°	84°	85°	84°	84°	85°	85°	84°	84°	81°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	2%	2%	3%	4%	2%	5%	2%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	69%	68%	69%	74%	75%	74%	71%	70%	70%	75%	76%	74%
DRY DAYS	67%	68%	65%	43%	30%	31%	39%	37%	31%	25%	33%	55%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	85%	85%	81%	64%	53%	58%	66%	63%	56%	48%	55%	77%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.33	0.33	0.42	1.12	1.60	1.11	0.77	0.93	1.26	1.71	1.41	0.56
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	4%	13%	16%	10%	7%	8%	18%	17%	3%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	10%	6%	8%	10%	10%	9%	7%	5%	5%	9%	15%	14%

COMMENTS: Merida has an upland version of the tropical wet-and-dry climate. Its elevation gives it pleasantly warm afternoons and mild to cool nights compared with the torrid heat of the nearby tropical lowlands. Its latitude means that there is little difference in either the temperatures or the length of the daylight period from one season to another. The seasons are based entirely on rainfall and the attendant clouds and reduced hours of sunshine. The rainy season runs from April through November, with two peaks. One peak is in May, the other in October. The rest of the year is relatively dry, but not completely so.

The dry season ("*verano*") runs from December through the end of March, and is the coolest time of year here in the *tierra templada* (temperate lands). The eight-month period of rains is referred to as "*invierno*". Note that these seasons are reversed from what you would expect in Spain under the same names.