

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SANTA ELENA DE UAIREN AND THE GRAN SABANA, VENEZUELA

LOCATION: Santa Elena is located in the extreme southeastern part of Venezuela, on the border with Brazil. The city is situated in a valley in the Pacaraima Mountains, at an elevation of just under 3,000 feet above sea level. It is a supply point for trips to the nearby mountains, and to the grassy, rolling uplands of the Gran Sabana, just to the northwest.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 11:54 | 11:59 | 12:06 | 12:14 | 12:20 | 12:23 | 12:22 | 12:17 | 12:09 | 12:02 | 11:55 | 11:52 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 6:36 | 6:59 | 6:38 | 6:14 | 5:19 | 5:04 | 5:57 | 6:36 | 7:53 | 7:48 | 7:05 | 6:40 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 36% | 36% | 32% | 27% | 22% | 19% | 25% | 29% | 38% | 34% | 30% | 33% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 55° | 56° | 56° | 56° | 55° | 57° | 55° | 56° | 54° | 54° | 55° | 56° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 61° | 62° | 62° | 63° | 64° | 63° | 62° | 62° | 61° | 61° | 61° | 61° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 84° | 85° | 85° | 84° | 82° | 81° | 81° | 81° | 82° | 84° | 84° | 83° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 88° | 90° | 90° | 90° | 87° | 85° | 84° | 85° | 88° | 89° | 89° | 87° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 9% | 16% | 16% | 9% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 9% | 16% | 16% | 16% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 49% | 46% | 46% | 51% | 57% | 61% | 59% | 58% | 50% | 47% | 50% | 50% |
| DRY DAYS | 58% | 61% | 59% | 48% | 19% | 10% | 14% | 20% | 44% | 55% | 46% | 48% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 80% | 81% | 77% | 67% | 50% | 43% | 46% | 54% | 68% | 73% | 68% | 73% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.42 | 0.43 | 0.54 | 1.01 | 1.37 | 1.65 | 1.44 | 1.16 | 0.72 | 0.71 | 0.80 | 0.64 |
| SNOWY DAYS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| THUNDER DAYS | 9% | 12% | 11% | 16% | 21% | 15% | 17% | 27% | 31% | 33% | 22% | 14% |
| FOGGY DAYS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 4% | 6% | 9% | 14% | 8% | 5% | 6% | 3% |

COMMENTS: The region has an upland version of the rainy tropical climate. Its elevation keeps temperatures some ten degrees cooler in the afternoons than equivalent sea-level locations. Its latitude means that there is little difference in the length of the day light period or in temperatures from month to month. Precipitation is abundant in all months, but the months from late April through August get twice as many rainy days and twice as much rainfall as months in the rest of the year. The less rainy season will get both the hottest and the coldest temperatures. The same clear skies that allow the tropical sun to bake the earth's surface during the afternoon will allow the heat to escape into outer space with little hindrance during the clear nights.

The Spanish terms *verano* and *invierno* have special meanings here that reverse the European seasons. *Verano* is the dry (and somewhat warmer) season of September through March, and *invierno* is the wet (and somewhat cooler) season of April through August.