

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE YAP ISLANDS, MICRONESIA

LOCATION: The Federated States of Micronesia, formerly the Caroline Islands, are located in the western Pacific ocean, north of New Guinea and east of the Philippines. The Yap Group is situated some 500 miles southwest of Guam. It consists of a number of islands formed by uplift. Consequently, unlike most of the islands in the area, they are neither volcanic nor coral in nature. The islands, however, are fringed by coral reefs. Elevations range up to 585 feet above sea level. Most of the islands are grassy hills, with areas of jungly marsh in the lowlands.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:39	11:50	12:05	12:20	12:34	12:40	12:38	12:26	12:11	11:56	11:42	11:35
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:51	7:28	8:10	8:30	7:49	6:38	6:05	5:38	5:58	5:30	6:21	6:15
AREA OF BLUE SKY	15%	16%	17%	19%	19%	11%	10%	6%	9%	11%	14%	15%
LOW FOR MONTH	71°	72°	72°	73°	72°	73°	72°	72°	72°	72°	72°	72°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	75°	75°	75°	76°	76°	75°	75°	75°	75°	75°	75°	75°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	86°	86°	87°	88°	88°	88°	87°	87°	88°	88°	87°	86°
HIGH FOR MONTH	88°	88°	89°	90°	91°	91°	91°	91°	91°	91°	90°	89°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	1%	0%	1%	10%	17%	12%	9%	10%	12%	12%	8%	2%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	76%	74%	73%	73%	77%	77%	78%	78%	78%	79%	78%	77%
NEARBY WATERS	82°	82°	82°	83°	84°	84°	84°	84°	84°	83°	84°	82°
DRY DAYS	34%	38%	42%	42%	31%	21%	20%	23%	24%	24%	25%	28%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	62%	69%	72%	69%	58%	44%	43%	43%	47%	46%	53%	58%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.17	1.01	0.88	0.92	1.50	1.89	2.42	2.48	2.16	2.00	1.62	1.47
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	1%	1%	3%	4%	6%	7%	7%	9%	8%	7%	5%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 56% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 45% in rainy August, to a high of 69% in relatively less rainy April. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 70 during some tropical downpour, and the highest should be near 92 on some sunny, dry and windless afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be from 9° to 12° warmer than actual ones, due to the high humidity. From November through June, the Northeast Trade Winds predominate. During this period, the showers are lighter, shorter, and less frequent. From July through October, southwesterly winds prevail. They are lighter, with many calms, and bring the heaviest rains. Tropical islands tend to generate a "cloud cap" of cumulus clouds during the daylight hours. This cap will grow larger and thicker as the day warms up and the onshore breezes strengthen. It will usually dissipate or weaken greatly after sunset. The Yap area shares this characteristic, fed by the prevailing trade winds out of the east-northeast. Consequently, the morning hours will be clearer and sunnier than the afternoons, as a general rule.