

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CARIBBEAN NATIONAL FOREST, PUERTO RICO

LOCATION: The Caribbean National Forest is located in northeastern Puerto Rico. The Forest takes in most of the higher elevations of the Sierra de Luquillo Mountains, some twenty-five miles southeast of San Juan. The Forest HQ is in Palmer, and the Visitor Center at El Portal Tropical Forest Center. Elevations run from about 100 feet above sea level near the northern boundary to some 3,533 feet at the summit of El Toro. The Forest's most noted peak, El Yunque ("the Anvil") rises to 3,494 feet and gives the forest its commonly-used name. Campers and hikers should be aware that the water is not safe to drink unless properly treated. This summary is typical of the higher areas near the summits. As a general rule, wet weather will decrease as you go down from here, and temperatures will get higher. Also, the northern and eastern slopes tend to be wetter than the southern and western ones.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:10	11:33	12:02	12:33	13:00	13:13	13:07	12:45	12:16	11:45	11:18	11:04
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:50	4:26	4:54	3:59	1:47	2:11	2:56	3:30	2:04	2:33	2:55	3:06
AREA OF BLUE SKY	26%	29%	30%	23%	9%	11%	15%	19%	11%	15%	19%	21%
LOW FOR MONTH	55°	55°	55°	56°	58°	60°	60°	61°	60°	60°	59°	57°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	59°	59°	58°	60°	62°	64°	64°	64°	64°	64°	62°	60°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	67°	67°	68°	69°	70°	71°	71°	72°	72°	72°	70°	67°
HIGH FOR MONTH	70°	70°	71°	72°	73°	74°	74°	75°	76°	75°	73°	70°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	65%	63%	65%	69%	68%	69%	69%	69%	69%	69%	68%
DRY DAYS	16%	23%	38%	32%	17%	16%	6%	9%	8%	11%	9%	7%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	37%	43%	51%	50%	32%	39%	32%	33%	29%	29%	22%	29%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.97	1.87	1.64	1.92	2.98	2.15	2.11	2.42	2.66	2.93	3.19	2.45
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	2%	1%	5%	18%	25%	27%	26%	40%	31%	15%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	55%	53%	53%	58%	68%	67%	64%	61%	67%	64%	61%	59%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on only 26% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 14% in May, to a high of 41% in March. These low values are due the cloud cap that sits over the mountain summits most of the daylight hours. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 55°, and the highest should be near 76°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. The climate shown here is characteristic of an upland tropical climate. There is very little difference (5°) between the temperatures of the coldest month and those of the warmest month. The difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures (8°) is greater than that. These mild and even cool temperatures will increase as you go lower in elevation. San Juan, some 3,400 feet lower, is 13° hotter on the average—and a great deal drier. The rain generally falls as a series of brief but intense showers, with dry spells of varying lengths in between the showers. Even when it is not raining, the trails tend to be wet and drippy.