

Cape Town rainfall, month by month

Why some months feel wet and others bone dry — a look at precipitation days, rainfall totals, temperature, humidity and sunshine across the year.

58

rainy days / year

621 mm

annual rainfall

8

peak days in June

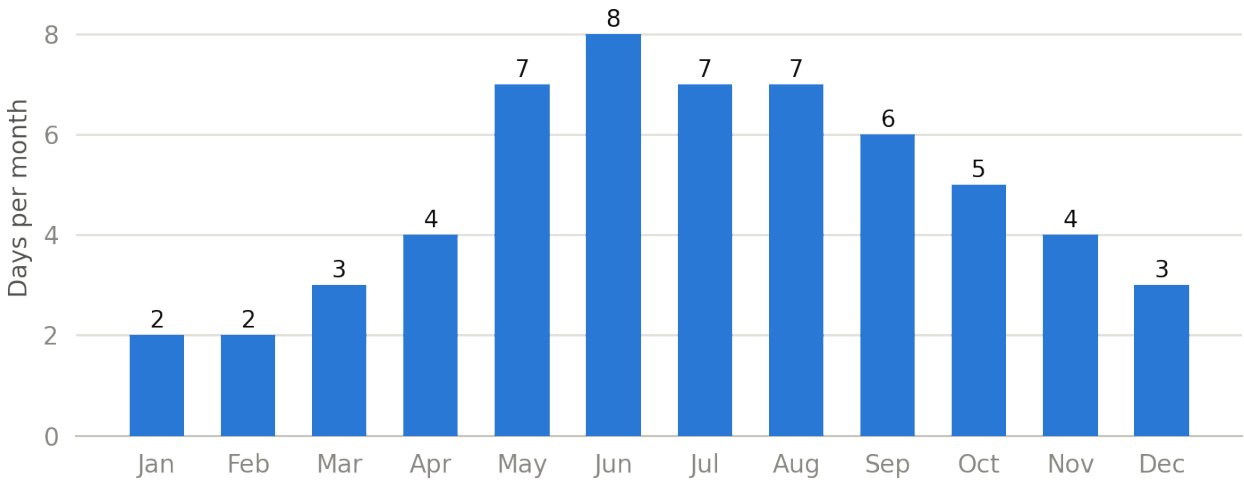
16%

of days have rain

SECTION 1

Rainy days by month

Days with measurable rainfall (≥ 0.1 mm), 1991–2021 average



Cape Town has a Mediterranean climate: wet winters, dry summers. June is the wettest month by day-count, averaging 8 rainy days — still barely a quarter of the month. January and February, deep summer, average just 2 rainy days each. There is no month where rain falls anywhere close to "most days," let alone all of them.

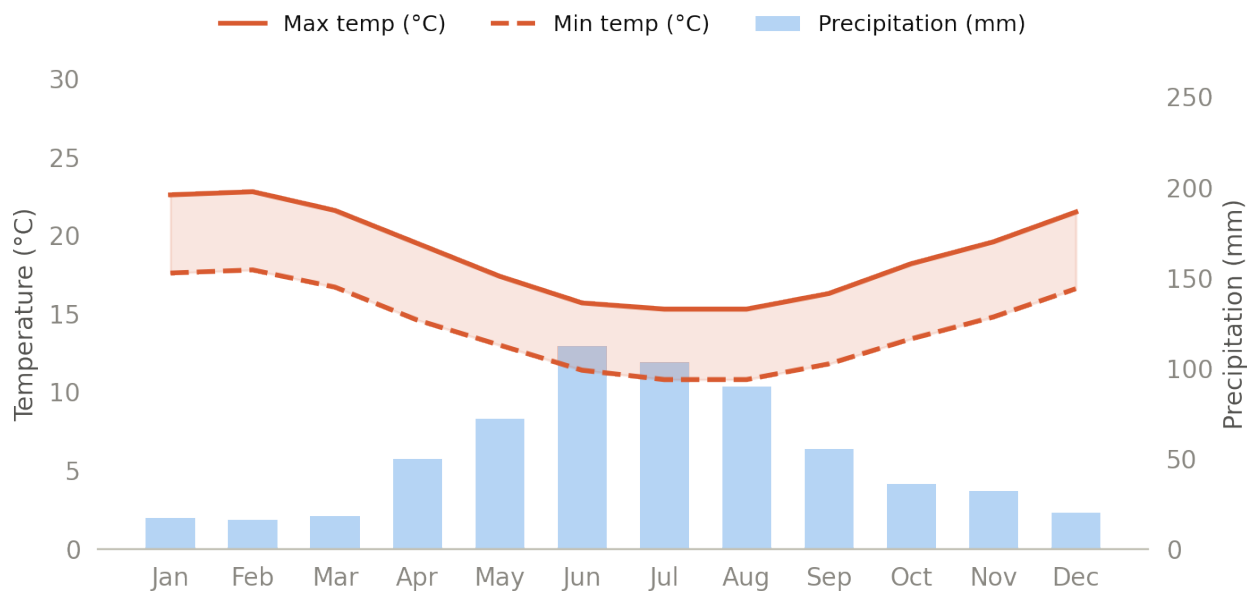
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainy days	2	2	3	4	7	8	7	7	6	5	4	3
Rainfall (mm)	17	16	18	50	72	112	103	90	55	36	32	20
Avg. temp (°C)	20	20.1	18.9	16.9	15.1	13.6	13	13	14	15.7	17.1	19

Source: Climate-Data.org, station average 1991–2021 (rainy days), 1991–2020 Copernicus C3S normals (rainfall, temperature).

SECTION 2

Rainfall vs. temperature

The classic climograph: cool, wet winters and warm, dry summers

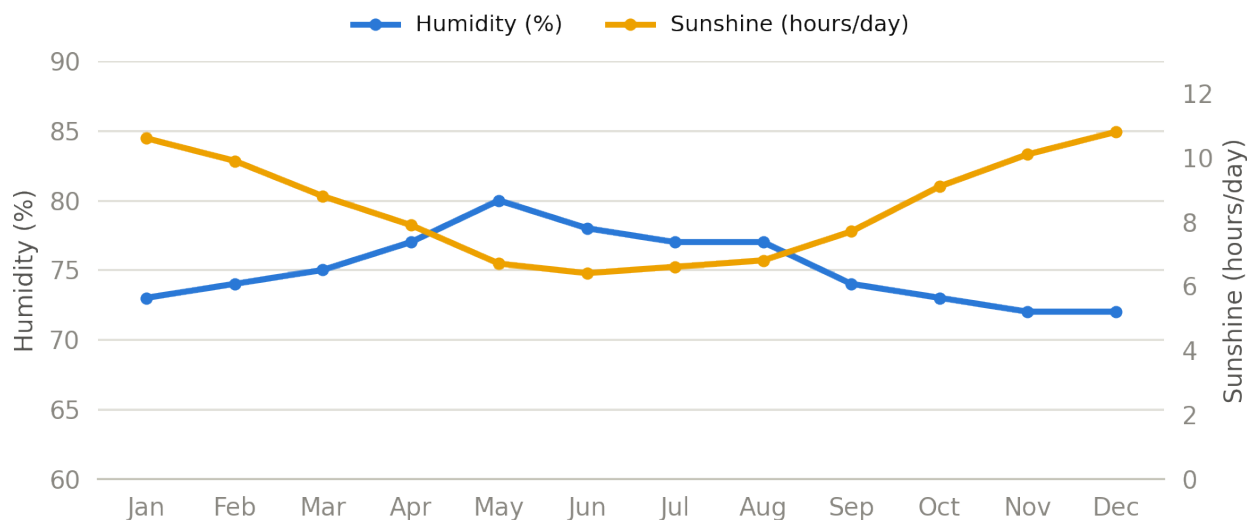


Rainfall and temperature move in opposite directions here. As the daily max drops from 23°C in February to around 15°C in June–August, monthly rainfall climbs from under 20 mm to over 100 mm. By November the pattern has fully reversed: warming temperatures, and rainfall back down near 30 mm.

SECTION 3

Humidity and sunshine

Two more angles on the same seasonal swing

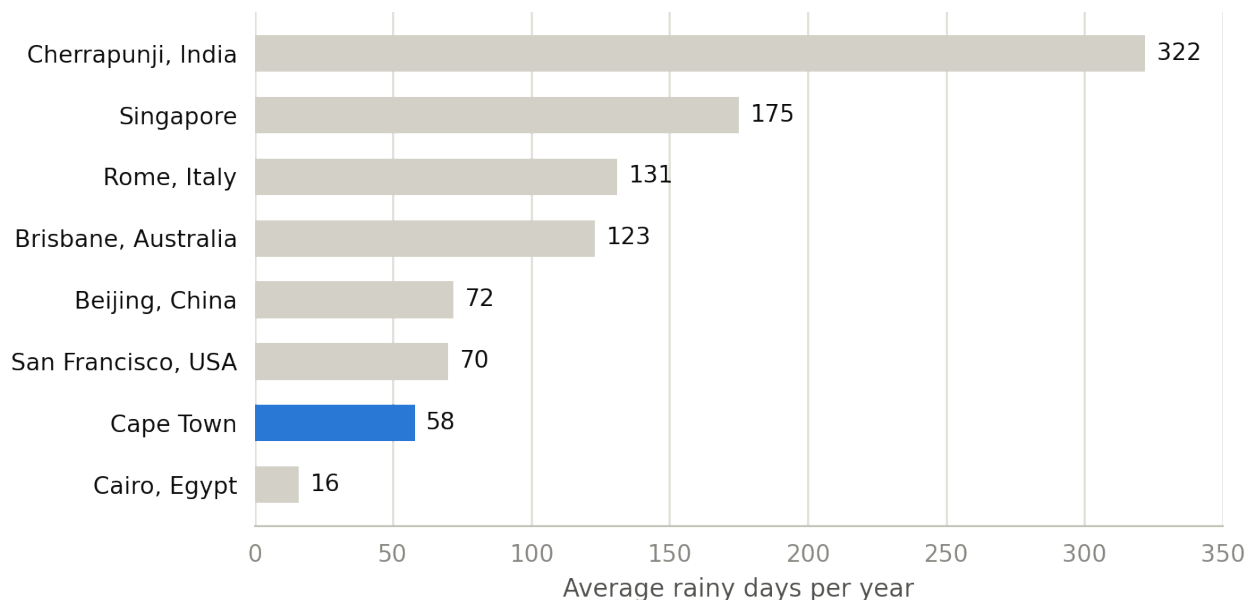


Humidity stays in a fairly narrow band (72-80%) year-round — Cape Town's coastal position keeps the air moist even in the dry months. Sunshine hours tell the sharper story: over 10.5 hours a day in December, dropping to about 6.4 in June, when short days coincide with the heaviest rain.

SECTION 4

How Cape Town compares

Average rainy days per year, selected cities worldwide



At roughly 58-101 rainy days a year (estimates vary by rain-day threshold and station), Cape Town sits well below rain-soaked cities like Singapore or Rome, and far below monsoon-driven Cherrapunji. It's wetter than true desert cities like Cairo, but the defining feature isn't the total — it's how concentrated those days are into a single winter season.

NOTES

Data & methodology

- "Rainy day" definitions vary by source: this report uses ≥ 0.1 mm of precipitation, the most common threshold and the one used in the primary table above.
- Rainfall totals differ across sources depending on measurement period and station: Cape Town Airport-area averages run 515-621 mm/year, while the mountainous Southern Suburbs average closer to 1,000 mm/year in the same city.
- World-comparison figures are approximate averages drawn from public climate summaries and are meant to illustrate relative scale, not precise like-for-like station comparisons.

Prepared from public climate data (Climate-Data.org / Copernicus C3S normals, 1991-2021) and Wikipedia's Cape Town climate summary. For reference only — not a substitute for official meteorological records.