

Climate of Kolkata at a Glance – A Tourist Guide



Climate of Kolkata

Kolkata, previously known as Calcutta, located in eastern India in the Ganges Delta is the capital of West Bengal state. Its climate is very much influenced by the sea, Bay of Bengal. The annual mean temperature is about 27°C; monthly mean temperatures range from 19°C to 30°C. Kolkata is dominated by 3 seasons namely-summer, monsoon and winter. The summer is hot and humid with mean temperatures about 30°C but during dry spells the maximum temperatures often exceed 40°C during April-May with a frequent break by severe thunderstorm/thunder squall during afternoon/evening hours resulting in relief from the humid heat. These thunderstorms often depicted elaborately by the Bengali nature poets are known as Kal baisakhi-the Nor'westers.

The main seasonal influence upon the climate is the Monsoon. Rain brought by the Bay of Bengal branch of South-West monsoon. Monsoon arrives in the first week of June and stays up to the first week of October. During the monsoon, maximum rainfall occurs in July (350 mm) and the seasonal (monsoon) total is 1248 mm out of an annual amount of 1640 mm. The two months October and November of the post monsoon season is the transition period between monsoon and winter. During these times days are clear and nights are comfortable. The post monsoon season also experiences severe cyclonic storms over the Bay of Bengal that give heavy rainfall in Kolkata.

Winter is the most pleasant time in Kolkata. Effective winter tends to last for only about two and a half months, with seasonal lows dipping to 12°C between December and January. Early morning mists are common in winter.

Enjoy the sun, the monsoon as well as the spring while you are on a trip to the city of Joy! From the perspective of Kolkata Weather the best time to visit this magnificent city is between October and March.

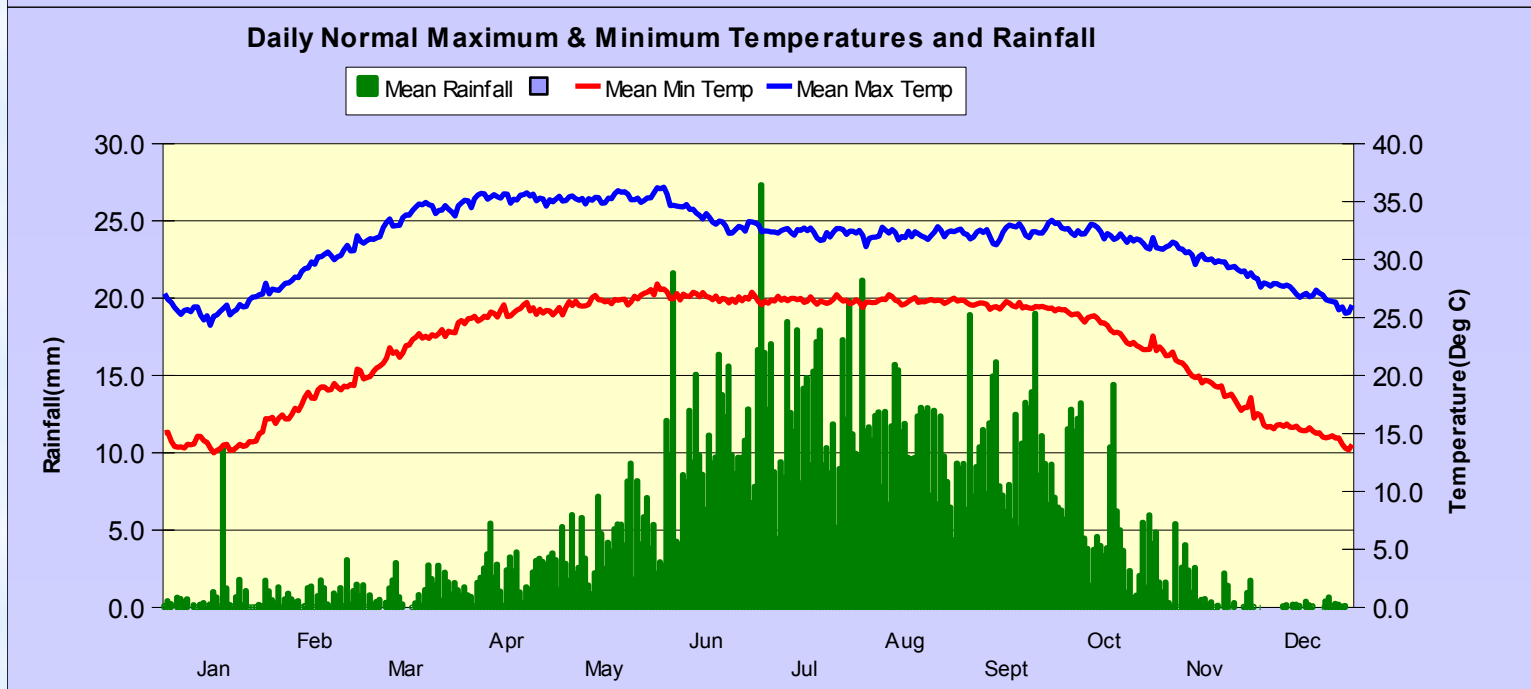
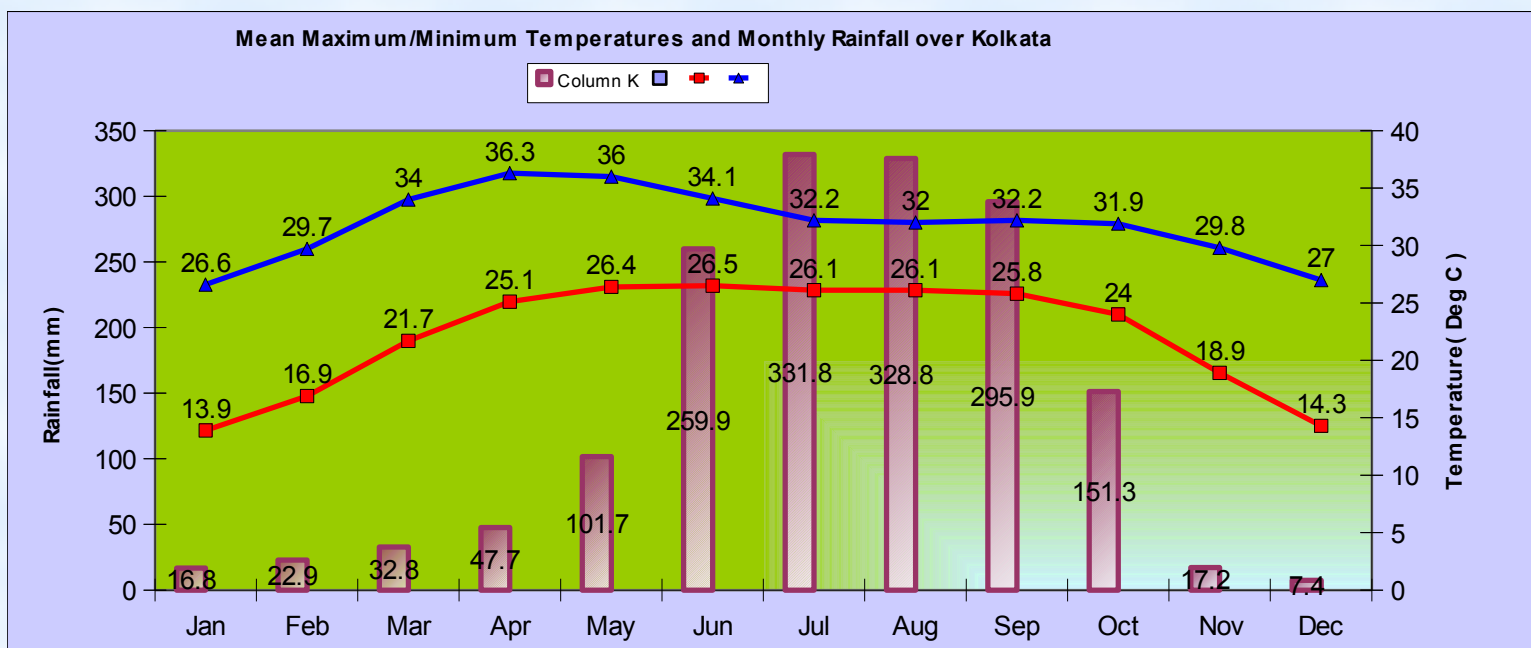
Averages

Month	Mean Temperature(°C)		Mean Total Rainfall (mm)	Mean Number of Rainy Days	Mean Number of days with			
	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum			HAIL	Thunder	FOG	SQUALL
Jan	13.9	26.6	16.8	0.9	0	0.4	7	0
Feb	16.9	29.7	22.9	1.5	0	1.9	5.6	0.7
Mar	21.7	34	32.8	2.3	0.1	3.8	2.1	1.9
Apr	25.1	36.3	47.7	3	0.1	6.4	0.1	4
May	26.4	36	101.7	5.9	0.1	9.4	0.1	4.9
Jun	26.5	34.1	259.9	12.3	0	12.2	0	3.7
Jul	26.1	32.2	331.8	16.8	0	11	0	1.3
Aug	26.1	32	328.8	17.2	0	12.8	0	1.3
Sep	25.8	32.2	295.9	13.4	0	15	0.1	1.3
Oct	24	31.9	151.3	7.4	0	7.9	0.6	0.7
Nov	18.9	29.8	17.2	1.1	0	0.3	1.9	0.1
Dec	14.3	27	7.4	0.4	0	0.1	6.1	0
Annual	22.1	31.8	1641.4	82.2	0.3	81.2	23.6	19.9

Extremes

Month	Highest Maximum		Lowest Minimum		Highest Rainfall		Heaviest rainfall	
	Temperature		Temperature		in the month		In 24 hours	
	°C	Date(Year)	°C	Date(Year)	(mm)	Year	(mm)	Date(Year)
January	32.6	19.01.2006	8.4	01.01.1989	36.7	1984	28.3	21.01.1997
February	38.4	28.02.2006	7.4	04.02.2006	81.4	1988	39.5	18.02.2000
March	40.6	27.03.2006	12.9	01.03.1984	110.9	1998	45.8	24.03.1998
April	41.1	30.04.1995	16.3	05.04.1990	165.2	1982	108.8	11.04.2005
May	43.0	21.05.2002	17.9	03.05.2003	348.1	1990	99.5	28.05.2001
June	41.5	06.06.1986	22.0	02.06.2004	946.2	1984	289.9	06.08.1984
July	39.7	04.07.1982	20.6	05.07.2005	878.9	1990	162.7	03.07.2007
August	38.4	12.08.1994	23.2	22.08.1996	539.4	1996	134.5	20.08.1987
September	38.9	10.09.1988	20.6	21.09.1996	591.3	1995	211.6	22.09.2006
October	39.0	31.10.1984	18.9	20.10.1986	450.4	2005	151.5	31.10.1998
November	34.5	05.11.1981	12.2	30.11.1982	173.2	1995	143.8	09.11.1986
December	31.9	11.12.1994	9.9	21.12.1984	145.3	1981	132.7	11.12.1981

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT**



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