Climate in Florida

The climate of Florida is tempered somewhat by its proximity to water. Most of the state has a humid subtropical climate, except for the southern tip which borders on tropical and the Florida Keys which have a true tropical climate. Cold fronts can occasionally bring high winds and cool to cold temperatures to the entire state during late fall and winter. The seasons in Florida are actually determined more by precipitation than by temperature with mild to cool, relatively dry winters and autumns (the dry season) and hot, wet springs and summers (the wet season). The Gulf Stream has a moderating effect on the climate, and although much of Florida commonly sees a high summer temperature over 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees C), the mercury seldom exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit (39 degrees C). Mean high temperatures for late July are primarily in the low 90s Fahrenheit (32-35 degrees C). Mean low temperatures for late January range from the low 40s Fahrenheit (4-7 degrees C) in northern Florida to the mid-50s (≈13 degrees C) in southern Florida. The Florida Keys, being surrounded by water, have a more tropical climate, with lesser variability in temperatures. At Key West, temperatures rarely exceed 90 degrees F in the summer or fall below 60 degrees F in the winter, and frost has never been reported in the Keys. Florida's nickname is the "Sunshine State," but severe weather is a common occurrence in the state. Central Florida is known as the lightning capital of the United States, as it experiences more lightning strikes than anywhere else in the country. Florida has the highest average precipitation of any state, in large part because afternoon thunderstorms are common in most of the state from late spring until early autumn. A fair day may be interrupted with a storm, only to return to sunshine. These thunderstorms, caused by collisions between airflow from the Gulf of Mexico and airflow from the Atlantic Ocean, pop up in the early afternoon and can bring heavy downpours, high winds, and sometimes tornadoes. Florida leads the United States in tornadoes per square mile, but these tornadoes do not typically reach the intensity of those in the Midwest and Great Plains. Hail often accompanies the most severe thunderstorms.

Key West Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Avg max temp (C) 24 24 26 28 30 31 32 32 31 29 27 25
Avg min temp (C) 18 19 21 22 25 26 26 26 26 24 22 19
Avg max temp (F) 75 75 79 82 85 88 89 89 88 84 80 76
Avg min temp (F) 65 66 69 72 76 79 80 79 79 76 71 67
Avg annual rainfall 1000 mm / 40 inch
Avg annual snowfall 0 cm / 0 inch

Miami Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Avg max temp (C) 24 25 26 28 30 31 32 32 31 29 27 25
Avg min temp (C) 15 16 18 20 22 24 25 25 24 22 19 16
Avg max temp (F) 75 77 79 82 85 88 89 89 88 85 80 77
Avg min temp (F) 59 60 64 68 72 75 76 77 76 72 67 62
Avg annual rainfall 1420 mm / 56 inch
Avg annual snowfall 0 cm / 0 inch

Orlando Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Avg max temp (C) 22 23 26 28 31 33 33 33 32 29 26 23
Avg min temp (C) 9 10 13 15 19 22 23 23 22 19 14 11
Avg max temp (F) 71 73 78 83 88 91 92 92 90 85 79 73
Avg min temp (F) 49 50 55 59 66 72 73 73 72 66 58 51
Avg annual rainfall
- note:
Avg annual snowfall 1220 mm / 48 inch
55% of the rain falls from june thru september

Pensacola Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
Avg max temp (C) 16 18 21 25 29 32 32 32 30 26 21 17
Avg min temp (C) 6 8 11 15 19 22 24 23 21 16 10 7
Avg max temp (F) 61 64 70 76 84 89 90 90 87 80 70 63
Avg min temp (F) 43 46 51 58 66 72 74 74 70 60 50 45
Avg annual rainfall 1600 mm / 63 inch
Avg annual snowfall 0 cm / 0 inch