

## Tropical monsoon regions

Areas which experience this type of climate are affected by monsoon winds which blow in from the sea in summer and bring the seasonal rain. These can occur in both hot and cooler areas but are most commonly found in parts of Asia, the Indian subcontinent and other areas around the Pacific Ocean.

Typical characteristics of tropical monsoon regions include:

- Location near the equator
- Decreasing temperatures where the altitude is higher
- Seasonal rainfall in summer brought by the monsoon winds, lasting up to three months and accompanied by violent thunderstorms
- The construction of terraces and ponds to conserve water whilst crops germinate
- Dependence on staple crops such as rice, bamboo and other vegetables which grow well when water is plentiful
- Intensive farming methods and terrace construction due to the lack of flat land available for agriculture
- Countries with high population densities, meaning adequate food production is vital
- Either high levels of monsoon rain, which can result in disasters such as extensive flooding and loss of buildings, or too little rain (when the monsoon 'fails') which can cause large-scale famine for several years
- A developing dependency on tourism as an income generator

Vietnam has a monsoon climate, where rain falls as a result of the monsoon winds, but as the country is long and narrow, temperatures change from north to south. In Ho Chi Minh, in the south, the average annual temperature is 27°C with two distinct seasons, the hot wet and the hot dry. However, in Hanoi in the north, it is cooler and there are four seasons with monsoon rain falling in the summer season.

Useful websites:

<http://www.traveltovietnam.com/Guide/General/Introduce/weather.asp>

describes the way the monsoon climate can change in one country

[http://www.uwsp.edu/geo/faculty/ritter/geog101/textbook/climate\\_systems/tropical\\_monsoon\\_1.html](http://www.uwsp.edu/geo/faculty/ritter/geog101/textbook/climate_systems/tropical_monsoon_1.html)

gives good description of the monsoon climate

[http://frank.harvard.edu/~howard/photo/australia02/kakadu/other/pages/monsoon\\_forest.htm](http://frank.harvard.edu/~howard/photo/australia02/kakadu/other/pages/monsoon_forest.htm)

has an interesting picture of a monsoon forest swamp in Australia

<http://www.beachpatong.com/photogallery/monsoon/index.htm>

shows monsoon rain floods in Thailand

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid\\_4720000/newsid\\_4722500/4722513.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4720000/newsid_4722500/4722513.stm)

has pictures of the monsoon in India

<http://www.rain-tree.com/schoolreports.htm>

this is a very comprehensive website for material on rainforests