

STORMS

1. DEADLIEST TORNADO IN THE U.S.

Missouri, Illinois and Indiana

On March 18, 1925, a twister cut a 219-mile path through three states, killing some 689 and injuring nearly 2,000.

2. LARGEST TORNADO OUTBREAK IN THE U.S.

Ohio River Valley

On April 3 and 4, 1974, a storm system spawned over 125 tornadoes from Indiana to northern Georgia, nearly a quarter of them rating as fearsome F4s or F5s.



3. DEADLIEST HURRICANE TO HIT THE U.S.

Galveston, Tex.

Not expected to be destructive, the 1900 storm ravaged the island with 100-mph winds and a 20-foot storm surge; an estimated 8,000 people died.

4. DEADLIEST FLOOD CAUSED BY A STORM SURGE

Bangladesh (East Pakistan)

In November 1970 a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal killed about 300,000 people.

5. COSTLIEST METEOROLOGICAL DISASTER

Bahamas, Florida and Louisiana

In 1992 the small but destructive Hurricane Andrew caused an estimated \$25 billion worth of damage.

6. LARGEST TROPICAL CYCLONE

Western Pacific

At its height on October 12, 1979, Typhoon Tip had gale-force winds extending over a radius of 675 miles. The 870 millibars recorded in Tip's eye is the lowest sea-level pressure ever recorded on Earth.

7. LONGEST-LASTING TROPICAL CYCLONE

Pacific Ocean

The storm system known as John wandered the Pacific for 31 days in August and September 1994.

CORBIS

PRECIPITATION

1. WETTEST PLACE ON EARTH

Lloro, Colombia

An estimated average of 523.6 inches of rain falls each year.

2. DRIEST PLACE ON EARTH

Arica, Chile

Averaged .03 inch of rain each year for half a century.

3. GREATEST 24-HOUR RAINFALL

Foc-Foc, Réunion Island

Between January 7 and January 8, 1966, 72 inches of rain fell.



Compiled by EUGENE RAIKHEL

EXTREME WEATHER

A tour of the most dramatic weather on the planet

4. GREATEST 12-MONTH RAINFALL

Cherrapunji, India

1,042 inches of rain fell between August 1, 1860, and July 31, 1861.

5. MOST INTENSE DROUGHT IN THE U.S.

Great Plains

From 1930 to 1938 agriculturally induced erosion, heavy winds and a lack of rain turned 50 million acres of farmland into the Dust Bowl.

6. BIGGEST 24-HOUR SNOWFALL IN THE U.S.

Silver Lake, Colo.

Storms dropped 76 inches of snow between April 14 and 15, 1921.

TEMPERATURE

1. HIGHEST TEMPERATURE

Al-'Aziziyah, Libya

Mercury reached 136° Fahrenheit on September 13, 1922.

2. LOWEST TEMPERATURE

Vostok Research Station, Antarctica

Temperature of -129° F was recorded on July 21, 1983, outside this Soviet research station.

3. HOTTEST PLACE ON EARTH

Dallol, Ethiopia

Average temperature from 1960 to 1966 was 94° F.

4. COLDEST PLACE ON EARTH

Sovietskaya Research Station, Antarctica

Average temperature in 1957 and 1958 was -71° F.



5. GREATEST 24-HOUR TEMPERATURE FALL IN U.S.

Browning, Mont.

Temperature fell from 44° to -56° F between January 23 and 24, 1916.

6. MOST VARIABLE TEMPERATURE ON EARTH

Verkhoyansk, Russia

Temperatures have ranged from -90° to 94° F, although Verkhoyansk is usually extremely cold.

7. LONGEST STREAK OF STABLE TEMPERATURES

Garapan, Saipan Island, Northern Mariana Islands

From 1927 to 1935 the temperature never rose above 88.5° F and never dropped below 67.3° F.

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OTHER



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1. HIGHEST WATERSPOUT

Eden, New South Wales, Australia

Estimated to be 5,014 feet high, it was spotted on May 16, 1898.

2. FOGGIEST PLACE IN THE U.S.

Cape Disappointment, Wash.

An average of 2,552 hours (106 days) each year are heavily foggy.

3. MOST HUMID PLACE ON EARTH

Aseb, Eritrea

Average afternoon dew point is over 84° F.

4. STRONGEST WINDS OUTSIDE OF A TORNADO

Mount Washington, N.H.

Gusts of 231 mph were measured on April 12, 1934.

ALL THE FIGURES ARE THE MOST EXTREME EVER RECORDED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME ESTIMATES. SOURCES: WEATHER AND CLIMATE EXTREMES, BY P. KBAUSE AND K. FLOOD; GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS; PAC, HURRICANES, TYPHOONS AND TROPICAL CYCLONES, BY C. LANDSEA; <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/tcfaq.html>