

# GLOBAL PREVAILING WINDS

Reference Chart: Atmospheric Circulation & Pressure Belts

LATITUDE RANGE	WIND SYSTEM	DIRECTION	CHARACTERISTICS
90 - 60 N/S	Polar Easterlies	<i>East to West</i>	Cold, dry air moving away from the poles; weak and irregular.
60 N/S	Subpolar Lows	<i>Upward Flow</i>	Polar Front; region of storms and high precipitation.
60 - 30 N/S	Westerlies	<i>West to East</i>	Strong winds steering weather systems; highly variable.
30 N/S	Horse Latitudes	<i>Downward Flow</i>	Subtropical high pressure; calm winds, clear skies, and deserts.
30 - 0 N	NE Trade Winds	<i>NE to SW</i>	Steady winds used historically by sailing merchant ships.
0 (Equator)	Doldrums (ITCZ)	<i>Convergent</i>	Intertropical Convergence Zone; light winds, humid, frequent thunderstorms.

LATITUDE RANGE	WIND SYSTEM	DIRECTION	CHARACTERISTICS
30 - 0 S	SE Trade Winds	<i>SE to NW</i>	Consistent flow towards the equator; deflected by Coriolis effect.

Note: Actual wind patterns are influenced by seasonal shifts (Monsoons) and local topography.