

# SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ZACATECAS AND THE HIGH DESERT, MEXICO

LOCATION: Zacatecas, the capital of the state of Zacatecas, is located in the southern part of that state and in central Mexico. The center of Zacatecas lies in a narrow gorge surrounded by hills, over which the city has spread. The landscape is characteristic of the high desert of northern Mexico, and elevations within the city range from just under 8,000 feet above sea level to about a thousand feet higher on the hilltops.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:55	11:23	12:01	12:40	13:14	13:31	13:24	12:56	12:18	11:39	11:05	10:46
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:57	7:50	7:53	8:10	8:45	7:26	6:58	7:09	6:08	6:54	7:41	6:29
AREA OF BLUE SKY	65%	68%	69%	68%	63%	51%	45%	44%	41%	60%	63%	61%
LOW FOR MONTH	33°	34°	35°	41°	47°	49°	48°	48°	47°	42°	38°	34°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	43°	44°	47°	51°	55°	54°	52°	52°	51°	50°	48°	45°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	56°	59°	63°	68°	71°	70°	65°	65°	64°	63°	61°	57°
HIGH FOR MONTH	64°	66°	70°	74°	78°	77°	71°	71°	69°	69°	67°	64°
FROSTY MORNINGS	8%	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	46%	40%	33%	31%	34%	49%	62%	52%	63%	55%	47%	49%
DRY DAYS	94%	96%	98%	98%	88%	71%	64%	62%	66%	82%	94%	94%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	98%	99%	99%	95%	83%	78%	79%	81%	91%	97%	98%
DRY HOURS	95%	98%	99%	99%	97%	95%	90%	93%	92%	96%	98%	96%
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	5%	5%	6%	5%	3%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	10%	8%	5%	5%	6%	19%	31%	28%	40%	26%	14%	14%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 60% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 52% in rainy July, to a high of 69% in sunny February and equally sunny November. The year's lowest temperature should be a few degrees below freezing, and the highest should be under 80°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be about three degrees cooler than actual ones because of the thin air and low humidities. The hilly terrain and the urban structures combine to exercise strong local controls over temperatures and winds. On cold, clear, calm winter nights, cold air will drain off of the surrounding hills to drop temperatures in the valley bottoms many degrees lower than on the slopes themselves. At the same time, the "urban heat island" effect keeps the city center warmer than the suburbs. The combination of the two makes for some complex patterns in terms of whether frost will occur on any given night—or not. Ask the residents about the weather differences between the various neighborhoods. They'll be glad to explain why their neighborhood is best.