

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SUPERSTITION MOUNTAINS, ARIZONA

LOCATION: The Superstition Mountains are a range of low mountains south of the Salt River and northeast of Apache Junction in central Arizona. Elevations range up to a bit over 6,000 feet above sea level. The mountains are the home of the fabled Lost Dutchman gold mine. Lost Dutchman State Park is a few miles out of Apache Junction in the mountain fringe. Most visitors to the area head for the string of reservoir lakes along the Salt River north of the mountains. There are four lakes. Going from upstream (east) to downstream (west) they are Roosevelt Lake, Apache Lake, Canyon Lake, and Saguaro Lake. The Mazatzal Mountains lie to the north of the River. Elevations vary along the river, but range from 1,400 to 2,300 feet above sea level. Primary access to the lakes is by the Apache Trail (AZ-88). That road is not for the timorous.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:13	10:58	11:58	13:00	13:53	14:21	14:09	13:24	12:25	11:23	10:28	9:59
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:00	8:49	10:06	11:31	12:55	13:24	11:50	11:18	11:00	10:01	8:49	7:44
AREA OF BLUE SKY	57%	57%	60%	68%	75%	82%	70%	64%	72%	74%	68%	61%
LOW FOR MONTH	23°	27°	31°	41°	48°	59°	64°	64°	57°	43°	34°	27°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	39°	41°	44°	52°	60°	69°	75°	73°	69°	59°	47°	41°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	60°	64°	68°	78°	88°	97°	100°	97°	93°	83°	70°	61°
HIGH FOR MONTH	71°	77°	82°	91°	101°	109°	109°	107°	104°	96°	82°	72°
FROSTY MORNINGS	23%	17%	6%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	21%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	10%	44%	83%	95%	89%	72%	27%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	42%	39%	31%	24%	21%	21%	31%	36%	33%	36%	39%	46%
DRY DAYS	85%	81%	86%	90%	95%	94%	78%	77%	87%	91%	89%	85%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	86%	87%	88%	93%	97%	97%	84%	81%	90%	91%	91%	86%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.30	0.22	0.27	0.11	0.04	0.04	0.29	0.44	0.23	0.17	0.18	0.34
SNOWY DAYS	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%	26%	30%	14%	4%	2%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 85% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 77% in December, to a high of 93% in May and June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 19° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 112° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones. The Apache Trail is a difficult road for large vehicles or vehicles with trailers. Between Tortilla Flat and Roosevelt Dam, it is unpaved, narrow, winding, and has steep drop-offs and few guard rails. If you have a large RV, especially a travel trailer, you should probably avoid this section--unless you are an exceptionally competent and experienced mountain road driver. Even then, you will have to "back and fill" in some places. Traveling from west to east, you have the inside of the road, with steep rocky cliffs on your right side. Going the other way, you have the edge of the gravel road and lots of empty space. Fallen rocks are common all over the road surface.