

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO PALO ALTO AND THE SOUTH BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: The pleasant city of Palo Alto is located in Santa Clara County in northern California. The city is situated on the southwestern shores of San Francisco Bay, south of the Dumbarton Bridge. The Bay shore here is flat, marshy, and taken up with sizeable salt evaporation ponds. The land slopes up through the city and its suburbs to the San Andreas Rift Zone and the Santa Cruz Mountains. Elevations within the city itself are within a few hundred feet of sea level. Palo Alto is noted as the site of *Stanford University*.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:54	10:48	11:56	13:09	14:10	14:42	14:29	13:37	12:28	11:16	10:13	9:39
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:26	5:05	6:31	7:44	9:41	10:59	11:28	10:27	9:12	7:30	5:24	4:41
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	37%	42%	46%	56%	64%	70%	68%	67%	60%	47%	42%
LOW FOR MONTH	27°	30°	33°	36°	39°	44°	47°	47°	44°	37°	31°	27°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	38°	41°	43°	45°	48°	53°	55°	55°	53°	48°	42°	38°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	57°	61°	64°	68°	73°	77°	78°	78°	78°	73°	64°	58°
HIGH FOR MONTH	69°	74°	79°	86°	94°	99°	97°	96°	98°	92°	79°	70°
FROSTY MORNINGS	21%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	20%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	8%	6%	5%	8%	2%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	62%	60%	58%	54%	55%	55%	59%	59%	56%	55%	60%	64%
NEARBY WATERS	48°	52°	55°	58°	63°	66°	69°	69°	67°	63°	58°	51°
DRY DAYS	68%	64%	71%	83%	94%	97%	99%	97%	97%	90%	77%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	81%	79%	84%	90%	97%	99%	99%	99%	99%	94%	87%	81%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.52	0.52	0.37	0.17	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.11	0.31	0.43
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	22%	15%	6%	3%	3%	3%	6%	7%	8%	11%	14%	22%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 62% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 45% in cloudy January, to a high of 79% in sunny July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 25° at some clear and calm winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 101° on some equally clear and windless summer afternoon. Clear skies and calm airs tend to make the high temperatures higher and the low ones lower. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. The area has a maritime version of the Mediterranean-type climate, with its winter rains and summer droughts. The presence of the Bay on one side and the Pacific Ocean only a few miles away on the other, keeps temperatures rather moderate compared to stations at the same latitude farther inland. A foggy day in the table is one in which—at some time of day—an object a half-mile away is invisible due to the fog. Anything more transparent than that is considered merely haze or mist. Local sunshine, temperatures, and humidity vary from site to site, depending upon how much fog and low cloud that particular site gets. This, in turn, is dependent upon distance from the Bay, elevation, and peculiarities of local topography.