

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ALTURAS AND THE MODOC NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Alturas is the county seat of Modoc County in extreme northeastern California. The town is situated in the sagebrush-covered Pit River Valley, at the junction of the North Fork of the Pit River with the South Fork. Elevations are close to 4,400 feet above sea level. The city is the HQ for the *Modoc National Forest*, which covers some 2,585 square miles of the surrounding mountains. The Warner Mountains, to the east of town, contain the *South Warner Wilderness*. The *Modoc National Wildlife Refuge* near town is popular with birders.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:33	10:35	11:55	13:19	14:30	15:08	14:52	13:51	12:32	11:09	9:55	9:15
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:59	5:59	7:12	8:42	10:09	11:02	13:04	10:42	9:54	6:50	4:19	3:07
AREA OF BLUE SKY	30%	38%	40%	43%	52%	60%	79%	74%	74%	60%	41%	34%
LOW FOR MONTH	-2 °	4 °	10 °	16 °	21 °	27 °	31 °	28 °	21 °	14 °	8 °	2 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	16 °	20 °	25 °	29 °	35 °	41 °	44 °	41 °	36 °	29 °	23 °	19 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	41 °	45 °	52 °	61 °	68 °	77 °	88 °	87 °	79 °	67 °	53 °	44 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	58 °	61 °	68 °	77 °	87 °	93 °	99 °	99 °	95 °	84 °	69 °	61 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	92%	90%	88%	74%	37%	10%	2%	5%	30%	74%	86%	92%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	12%	46%	41%	13%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	64%	56%	46%	37%	35%	32%	25%	26%	29%	37%	53%	65%
DRY DAYS	69%	67%	70%	74%	76%	84%	93%	94%	89%	84%	73%	70%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	87%	87%	88%	88%	87%	90%	97%	97%	97%	92%	85%	84%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.27	0.25	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.15	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.16	0.22	0.25
LIKELY SNOWFALL	10.0"	6.8"	6.0"	2.5"	0.6"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	3.3"	6.0"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	19%	16%	13%	6%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	12%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	2%	2%	6%	10%	9%	10%	4%	2%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	15%	5%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%	7%	13%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 63% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 34% in wintry December, to a high of 88% in sunny July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -4 ° 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 up to 4 ° cooler than actual ones from March through November, due to the low humidity. Alturas has a continental climate with wide ranges of temperature—both from day to night and from winter to summer. Below-freezing temperatures can be expected in every month—including those that get frequent afternoons over 90 °. When you leave the valley and go up into the mountains, elevation and—to a lesser degree—slope orientation rule local climates.