

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK, CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTION: *Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park* is located within the Siskiyou Mountains, but along the Pacific coast of northern California. It's between Eureka (51 miles) and Crescent City (33 miles). The twenty-two square miles of the Park include both Prairie Creek and the Gold Beach area along the coast. Elevations range from sea level along the beach to a thousand or so feet above it. The Park is part and parcel of the larger *Redwood National Park*. Park campgrounds are located at Elk Prairie and Gold Bluffs Beach. Orick (five miles south) is the nearest town and service center. The Park is known for three major features: its stands of magnificent coast redwoods, its herds of imposing Roosevelt Elk (California's largest land mammal), and ten miles of what many people consider to be Northern California's most scenic sand beach.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:34	10:36	11:55	13:18	14:30	15:07	14:51	13:51	12:32	11:09	9:56	9:16
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:58	4:48	6:07	7:29	8:15	8:43	8:07	7:04	6:50	5:28	4:15	3:38
AREA OF BLUE SKY	27%	26%	27%	30%	32%	34%	36%	34%	40%	36%	28%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	31°	33°	35°	36°	39°	42°	46°	44°	43°	38°	33°	30°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	42°	44°	45°	47°	50°	53°	56°	56°	55°	51°	47°	43°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	52°	55°	57°	59°	63°	66°	69°	70°	71°	66°	57°	52°
HIGH FOR MONTH	61°	66°	68°	74°	78°	82°	82°	83°	85°	82°	66°	60°
FROSTY MORNINGS	27%	22%	20%	12%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	12%	24%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	76%	67%	63%	59%	59%	60%	56%	60%	53%	60%	72%	76%
NEARBY WATERS	51°	51°	51°	51°	52°	54°	55°	57°	56°	54°	54°	52°
DRY DAYS	49%	47%	46%	60%	71%	83%	94%	90%	87%	71%	50%	49%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	57%	57%	58%	70%	80%	90%	97%	97%	90%	80%	61%	55%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.86	1.71	1.47	0.81	0.56	0.22	0.05	0.08	0.23	0.81	1.58	1.94
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	40%	35%	23%	22%	19%	26%	35%	36%	37%	41%	43%	47%

CLIMATE: Bright sunshine is likely on about half of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 39% in rainy December, to a high of 58% in sunny June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 28° at some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 87° 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 a few degrees cooler than the already cool actual temperatures, due to the dampness and fog brought in by the prevailing winds off the Pacific. The presence of the ocean dominates the Park's weather. During the winter, it produces storms and rain. During the summer, it generates fog and low cloud. Although the bane of motorists, the fog seems to be necessary for the redwoods to prosper. If you plan to stay for more than a few hours, a windbreaker, warm clothing, and (in season) raingear are all useful.