

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BISHOP AND THE UPPER OWENS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: The Owens Valley is located at the foot of the steep eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in east-central California. Bishop is situated at the north end of the valley, with White Mountain Peak rising to 14,246 feet above sea level some 23 miles to the northeast, and Mount Morgan reaching 13,748 some 19 miles to the west. The north end of the valley is blocked just above Bishop by volcanic tablelands, cut by the gorge of the Owens River. Bishop is the service center for the *Mammoth Lakes* resort area, for the Tioga Pass entrance to *Yosemite National Park* (summer only), for *Death Valley National Park*, and for the surrounding *Inyo National Forest* with its *John Muir Wilderness*. The Forest HQ is in Bishop.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:55	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	6:42	8:06	9:34	10:17	11:03	12:46	13:21	12:25	11:38	9:36	8:01	7:17
AREA OF BLUE SKY	47%	50%	53%	57%	59%	74%	76%	78%	81%	71%	59%	55%
LOW FOR MONTH	8 °	14 °	18 °	25 °	32 °	39 °	46 °	44 °	37 °	26 °	16 °	9 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	21 °	26 °	30 °	36 °	43 °	50 °	56 °	53 °	46 °	37 °	27 °	22 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53 °	57 °	64 °	72 °	80 °	90 °	97 °	94 °	87 °	77 °	63 °	56 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	67 °	71 °	76 °	84 °	93 °	101 °	104 °	103 °	98 °	88 °	77 °	68 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	94%	86%	65%	27%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	20%	79%	94%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	1%	16%	61%	94%	86%	46%	4%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	35%	27%	21%	17%	16%	13%	14%	14%	15%	18%	27%	35%
DRY DAYS	87%	89%	90%	92%	92%	96%	95%	95%	95%	94%	92%	90%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	94%	94%	96%	98%	97%	98%	99%	99%	98%	98%	96%	95%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.19	0.16	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.08	0.14
LIKELY SNOWFALL	3.9"	1.5"	0.7"	0.3"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"	1.2"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	5%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	6%	17%	9%	4%	2%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 82% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a “low” of 68% in January, to a high of 93% in sunny September. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 3° at some chilly winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 106° on some blazing summer afternoon. That’s an expected annual range of 103° from the coldest day to the warmest. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 7° cooler than actual ones during the heat of summer, and still 4° cooler during the dry winter days. The prevailing winds tend to blow up or down the valley; that is, up the valley from the Mojave Desert in the southeast, or down the valley from the mountains to the northwest. During the hotter months, these winds often alternate on a daily basis: blowing down the valley in the early hours, up the valley in the heat of the afternoon, and then down the valley again in the evening. In the cooler months, especially February through April, the winds from the northwest can become extremely strong and turbulent.