

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO CARSON PASS AND THE HIGH SIERRAS, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: The Carson Pass area is located in Alpine County in east-central California. The area is situated along CA-88 in the Sierra Nevada Mountains at an elevation of around 8,000 feet above sea level. Three large lakes (Caples Lake, Silver Lake, and the Bear River Reservoir) and a number of smaller ones are the center of most of the recreational activities, but the surrounding *Eldorado National Forest* and the *Mokelumne Wilderness* are almost as popular. The *Pacific Rim Trail* crosses the highway near Woods Lake. The table data may be taken as typical of recreation sites at or near this elevation in this portion of the High Sierras.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:48	10:44	11:56	13:12	14:16	14:50	14:36	13:41	12:29	11:14	10:08	9:32
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:37	3:07	3:34	6:12	7:33	10:15	12:16	11:17	9:58	6:52	2:59	2:49
AREA OF BLUE SKY	22%	22%	22%	29%	43%	61%	80%	77%	73%	53%	25%	26%
LOW FOR MONTH	-2 °	-1 °	4 °	11 °	18 °	26 °	33 °	33 °	28 °	21 °	11 °	3 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	15 °	15 °	17 °	22 °	29 °	36 °	42 °	41 °	37 °	30 °	23 °	17 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	37 °	39 °	41 °	47 °	54 °	62 °	71 °	71 °	65 °	56 °	46 °	40 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	52 °	54 °	56 °	60 °	67 °	74 °	79 °	78 °	75 °	67 °	58 °	54 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	98%	98%	91%	67%	30%	5%	7%	18%	54%	88%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	52%	48%	46%	41%	37%	31%	27%	29%	29%	37%	45%	53%
DRY DAYS	65%	61%	61%	70%	77%	83%	90%	90%	87%	84%	70%	68%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	66%	66%	68%	78%	85%	91%	95%	96%	93%	88%	77%	71%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.40	1.31	1.07	0.66	0.37	0.19	0.10	0.09	0.16	0.39	0.83	1.22
LIKELY SNOWFALL	78.3"	70.3"	69.8"	36.7"	13.5"	2.2"	0.0"	0.2"	1.1"	9.9"	35.3"	62.7"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	32%	38%	39%	28%	13%	3%	0%	0%	1%	7%	21%	27%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	1%	1%	6%	7%	12%	8%	4%	2%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	17%	15%	16%	11%	9%	3%	0%	0%	2%	8%	11%	18%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 52% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 27% in January, to a high of 84% in sunny July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -4 ° at some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 80 ° 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 5 ° cooler than actual ones during the warmer months, due to the relatively low afternoon humidity. Snowfall totals are highly variable from year to year and from place to place. The ground is usually snow-covered and frozen (and the lakes, as well) from early November to well into June. Elevation and—to a lesser degree—slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1 °F for each 300'-increase in elevation—and *vice versa* going downhill.