

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE GOLD-RUSH COUNTRY, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: The Gold-Rush Country, site of the 1849 gold rush, consists of a narrow strip of land running along the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in central California. This strip-like configuration reflects the underlying gold-bearing geologic formation of the “Mother Lode”. The location of the old gold-rush communities roughly parallels CA-49, from Downieville in the north down to Oakhurst in the south. Elevations range between 1,000 and 3,000 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:52	10:46	11:56	13:10	14:13	14:46	14:32	13:39	12:29	11:15	10:11	9:36
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:13	5:53	7:07	8:51	10:35	12:26	13:35	12:31	10:59	8:40	5:48	4:12
AREA OF BLUE SKY	36%	42%	45%	51%	61%	74%	89%	86%	81%	67%	49%	38%
LOW FOR MONTH	21 °	22 °	25 °	31 °	34 °	39 °	45 °	45 °	39 °	31 °	26 °	16 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	31 °	33 °	34 °	38 °	43 °	49 °	54 °	53 °	49 °	42 °	35 °	31 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	51 °	56 °	58 °	65 °	74 °	83 °	92 °	90 °	85 °	74 °	60 °	53 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	64 °	67 °	71 °	78 °	88 °	98 °	103 °	99 °	97 °	87 °	75 °	67 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	66%	55%	42%	22%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	37%	65%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	28%	66%	61%	32%	6%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	65%	59%	56%	47%	41%	36%	31%	31%	33%	40%	54%	63%
DRY DAYS	63%	63%	65%	74%	82%	93%	98%	98%	92%	85%	73%	66%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	73%	71%	74%	82%	92%	97%	99%	98%	97%	92%	80%	76%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.45	1.22	0.92	0.63	0.22	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.11	0.35	0.88	1.18
LIKELY SNOWFALL	3.5 "	1.8 "	2.2 "	0.6 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.3 "	1.4 "
SNOWY DAYS	23%	25%	26%	17%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	19%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	3%	3%	5%	4%	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	33%	26%	21%	12%	10%	3%	0%	0%	2%	11%	21%	31%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely to occur on 70% of the year’s daylight hours. This will probably range from a low of 43% in January, to a high of 94% in July. The expected lowest temperature for the year will be around 10° on some windless winter sunrise, and the most probable highest will be near 105° on some sunny summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will generally be 2° to 4° cooler than actual ones. The Gold-Rush Country has a four-season climate. Summers are long, sunny, very hot, and very dry. Winters are short, moderately sunny, cool to chilly, and moderately wet. During the winter months, snow flurries and snowfalls are common, but so is rain. As a consequence, snow rarely remains on the ground for long at these elevations. Farther up the Sierras, however, the ground remains snow-covered during the winter.