

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Kings Canyon National Park is located in the high sierras of east-central California. The Park covers some 722 square miles of what is essentially wilderness. The dominant feature is the dramatic canyon of the Kings River. Elevations range from less than 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 14,000 feet in elevation. The Visitor Center at Grant Grove is some 6,600 feet in elevation. Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks adjoin one another, and are administered as a single unit. The road between Grant Grove in Kings Canyon and Giant Forest in Sequoia is supposedly an all-weather road, but is frequently closed by heavy snows during the winter.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:58	10:50	11:57	13:07	14:07	14:38	14:25	13:35	12:28	11:18	10:16	9:43
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:52	5:10	5:51	7:43	9:18	11:45	12:49	11:54	10:43	8:23	5:12	4:01
AREA OF BLUE SKY	27%	33%	33%	43%	52%	71%	82%	81%	78%	64%	40%	32%
LOW FOR MONTH	17 °	17 °	20 °	24 °	31 °	38 °	46 °	45 °	40 °	33 °	26 °	19 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	25 °	25 °	26 °	30 °	37 °	45 °	51 °	50 °	46 °	39 °	31 °	27 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	43 °	44 °	45 °	50 °	57 °	67 °	75 °	74 °	69 °	60 °	50 °	45 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	53 °	53 °	54 °	59 °	65 °	74 °	80 °	79 °	76 °	67 °	59 °	54 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	80%	82%	80%	62%	29%	5%	0%	0%	3%	21%	54%	75%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	61%	62%	55%	52%	46%	38%	38%	42%	52%	58%	64%
DRY DAYS	71%	68%	68%	77%	87%	93%	97%	97%	90%	90%	80%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	75%	72%	73%	83%	91%	97%	99%	99%	94%	94%	83%	78%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.30	1.25	1.10	0.64	0.25	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.16	0.28	0.80	1.06
LIKELY SNOWFALL	36.0"	36.8"	43.6"	24.8"	5.7"	0.4"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	2.3"	16.2"	27.0"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	13%	17%	21%	15%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	11%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	2%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	39%	34%	23%	21%	18%	19%	16%	15%	18%	20%	43%	36%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 64% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 39% in January, to a high of 89% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 15°, and the highest should be near 82°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones, due to the combination of temperature and humidity. 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. Snowfall is extremely variable, both from year to year and from place to place here in the mountains. Fogs, mists, and low clouds are a characteristic of the area. Indeed, wherever you find either redwoods or sequoias growing naturally, you will find foggy conditions. Fog is considered to be present when a large object a quarter-mile away is not visible. Anything less than that is simply a mist.