

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SACRAMENTO AREA, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Sacramento, the capital of the state of California, is located—appropriately enough—right in the central part of the state’s great Central Valley. The city is situated at the junction of the American River with the larger Sacramento River. Elevations are close to sea level. The city includes the site of *Sutter’s Fort (a State Historic Park)*, which was the jumping off point for the first “gold strike” of the 1849 California Gold Rush. The city is a popular base for exploring the Mother Lode Country and for trips to Lake Tahoe.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:49	10:44	11:56	13:11	14:16	14:49	14:35	13:41	12:29	11:14	10:08	9:32
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:26	6:34	8:24	10:29	12:16	13:39	14:06	13:06	11:28	9:24	6:37	4:22
AREA OF BLUE SKY	29%	38%	44%	52%	64%	78%	89%	86%	81%	68%	44%	31%
LOW FOR MONTH	29°	33°	36°	39°	43°	48°	52°	51°	48°	42°	33°	29°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	39°	43°	46°	48°	52°	57°	59°	58°	57°	52°	44°	40°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53°	60°	65°	71°	78°	86°	91°	90°	86°	77°	64°	54°
HIGH FOR MONTH	63°	69°	76°	83°	94°	101°	104°	102°	99°	90°	76°	63°
FROSTY MORNINGS	13%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	10%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	2%	14%	34%	60%	55%	37%	6%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	59%	52%	43%	36%	31%	29%	29%	31%	38%	56%	70%
DRY DAYS	68%	68%	71%	83%	90%	97%	99%	99%	97%	90%	80%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	79%	81%	90%	94%	97%	99%	99%	97%	94%	87%	81%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.60	0.57	0.43	0.24	0.10	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.15	0.34	0.50
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	33%	19%	6%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	18%	30%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 77% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 45% in cloudy January, to a high of 97% in sunny and virtually cloudless July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 27° at some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 105° on some summer afternoon “norther”. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 5° cooler than actual ones throughout the year, but particularly during the hot summer months. This is due to the low summer afternoon humidity. Sacramento, along with almost all of the Central Valley, does not have the fogs and low clouds of summer that plague the coast of the state. Quite the contrary, summer days are usually clear and cloudless from sunrise to sunset. Occasionally, but especially during the summer, strong gravity winds (“northers”) blow down out of the Siskiyou Mountains to the north, dropping the humidity down to single digits, and raising both temperatures and tempers. During the cooler months, radiation fogs (locally known as “tule (TOO-lee) fogs”) form during the night and can persist throughout the mornings. They can make driving hazardous.