

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SANTA MARIA AREA, CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTION: Santa Maria is located in the Santa Maria Valley of coastal southern California. The city is situated on the fertile valley floor, some ten miles east of the Pacific Ocean, and some 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Elevations are around 240 feet above sea level. The local agriculture is oriented to specialty crops, with strawberries, broccoli, lettuce, and wine grapes most important. *Los Padres National Forest* takes in the upper slopes of the San Rafael Mountains, and includes the *Sisquoc River*, a tributary of the Santa Maria, and a *National Wild River*.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:06	10:55	11:57	13:03	13:59	14:28	14:16	13:29	12:26	11:21	10:23	9:52
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:14	7:01	8:08	9:07	9:57	10:35	10:18	9:41	8:54	8:34	7:27	6:39
AREA OF BLUE SKY	50%	49%	51%	54%	57%	62%	66%	66%	64%	63%	60%	54%
LOW FOR MONTH	28 °	31 °	33 °	35 °	38 °	42 °	47 °	47 °	44 °	39 °	32 °	28 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	39 °	41 °	42 °	44 °	47 °	50 °	53 °	53 °	52 °	48 °	43 °	39 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	63 °	64 °	65 °	67 °	68 °	71 °	53 °	74 °	75 °	74 °	69 °	65 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	76 °	77 °	78 °	83 °	83 °	85 °	84 °	86 °	91 °	91 °	84 °	78 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	20%	13%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	18%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	5%	4%	1%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	61%	63%	60%	61%	60%	61%	62%	63%	59%	57%	58%
NEARBY WATERS	56 °	55 °	55 °	55 °	55 °	57 °	59 °	60 °	61 °	61 °	59 °	58 °
DRY DAYS	78%	73%	74%	85%	94%	97%	99%	99%	96%	92%	84%	79%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	85%	83%	85%	92%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	96%	90%	89%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.41	0.44	0.39	0.17	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.10	0.21	0.34
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	16%	16%	15%	19%	20%	25%	26%	33%	41%	38%	21%	19%

CLIMATE: Bright sunshine is likely on 70% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a “low” of 62% in January, to a high of 76% in sunny October. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 25 ° at some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 98 ° on some equally clear and windless summer afternoon. This close to the coast, a drop in the westerly wind off of the Pacific makes the high temperatures higher and the low temperatures lower. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones, since the combination of temperature and humidity produces moderate conditions most of the time. Half of the year’s days will be clear days, with each month getting at least 40% such days. July leads the pack with 57% clear days. This clarity is most common in the afternoons, however, since the winds off the Pacific often bring low cloud and fog during the nighttime hours, which can persist until noon. This same mixture of cloud and fog, however, keeps the nights from getting as cold as they otherwise might, and helps to moderate daytime temperatures as well. Consequently, most of the extremes of temperature occur under clear conditions.