

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BAKERSFIELD AREA, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Bakersfield is located at the southern end of California's San Joaquin Valley—the southern half of the Great Central Valley. The city is situated on the south bank of the Kern River, as it flows westward out of the foothills of the Greenhorn Mountains. To the south, the valley is rimmed by the Tehachapi Mountains, while the Temblor Range closes off the west. Only the northern horizon is open. The landscape is fairly flat, with elevations around 400 feet above sea level. Bakersfield is the center of an important oil field, and petroleum products make up a major part of its exports. It is also noted for race cars, country music, excellent Basque restaurants, and being the home of Bakersfield State University. Bakersfield is a frequent gateway to *Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks*, and occasionally to *Death Valley National Park*.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:04	10:53	11:57	13:04	14:01	14:31	14:18	13:30	12:27	11:20	10:21	9:50
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:52	6:31	8:01	9:55	12:00	13:50	13:32	12:40	11:22	9:21	6:53	4:30
AREA OF BLUE SKY	34%	41%	45%	55%	68%	84%	87%	87%	83%	71%	53%	35%
LOW FOR MONTH	28°	32°	36°	41°	46°	53°	60°	58°	52°	43°	34°	28°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	37°	41°	44°	49°	55°	62°	67°	65°	59°	51°	42°	37°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	58°	65°	69°	76°	84°	93°	100°	98°	91°	81°	69°	59°
HIGH FOR MONTH	72°	77°	82°	91°	100°	107°	108°	106°	103°	96°	83°	72°
FROSTY MORNINGS	18%	6%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	17%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	8%	31%	64%	92%	84%	58%	18%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	62%	50%	42%	33%	26%	23%	21%	24%	28%	33%	48%	61%
DRY DAYS	80%	78%	80%	87%	94%	99%	99%	99%	98%	94%	89%	83%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	91%	90%	91%	94%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	93%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.09	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.09	0.13
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	27%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	25%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 76% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 46% in December, to a high of 95% in sunny June and July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 26° at some chilly winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 110° on some blazing summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be about 5° cooler than actual ones during the summer months, due to the low humidity. The cooler months often have foggy spells that form late at night and persist on into the morning. It usually—but not always—burns off by noon or shortly after. Also, during the winter, warm dry gravity winds can pour out of the Tehachapi Pass to the south, raising temperatures sharply and dropping the humidity to desert levels. Hot summer weather is made more bearable by the occasional northwest winds that move up the valley from the Bay area. These “Delta breezes” raise the humidity somewhat, but more than make up for that with the cooler temperatures and occasional cloud. Yes, that’s right. During the summer months, every cloud is welcome for its passing shade!