

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SQUAW VALLEY AREA, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: The resort community of Squaw Valley (technically Olympic Valley) is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of northern California. The valley is a tributary of the Truckee River, which empties into Lake Tahoe a few miles to the southeast. Elevations at the resort complex are around 6,200 feet above sea level, with the ski slopes several thousand feet higher. This guide is characteristic of the resort elevation, and is more or less applicable to similar ski resorts in the area. The Valley was the site of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games. The area is surrounded by Tahoe National Forest.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:46	10:42	11:56	13:13	14:19	14:53	14:39	13:43	12:30	11:13	10:05	9:29
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:35	5:08	5:51	7:00	8:35	10:34	12:09	11:07	9:52	7:31	5:21	4:39
AREA OF BLUE SKY	34%	36%	37%	41%	50%	64%	79%	77%	74%	59%	41%	36%
LOW FOR MONTH	2°	4°	8°	13°	27°	30°	35°	36°	30°	21°	13°	5°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	17°	19°	22°	27°	32°	38°	43°	42°	38°	32°	25°	20°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	37°	40°	43°	51°	60°	69°	78°	77°	70°	59°	47°	40°
HIGH FOR MONTH	49°	51°	55°	63°	70°	82°	87°	86°	82°	69°	57°	51°
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	98%	97%	84%	51%	18%	2%	6%	20%	64%	91%	95%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	53%	46%	42%	35%	32%	29%	23%	25%	27%	33%	45%	53%
DRY DAYS	68%	69%	70%	76%	81%	89%	94%	94%	89%	85%	74%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	71%	69%	73%	84%	85%	94%	97%	99%	96%	88%	82%	73%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.03	1.02	0.69	0.38	0.22	0.11	0.04	0.02	0.08	0.31	0.59	0.94
LIKELY SNOWFALL	60.6"	48.4"	39.9"	17.5"	4.8"	0.3"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	3.3"	16.1"	39.1"
SNOWY DAYS	28%	25%	28%	17%	7%	1%	0%	0%	1%	4%	16%	25%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	4%	8%	10%	10%	9%	5%	2%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	14%	12%	11%	8%	5%	2%	0%	1%	1%	4%	8%	15%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 62% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 47% in January, to a high of 83% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to zero, and the highest should be near ninety. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 5° cooler than actual ones. As you go up the slopes, afternoon temperatures will drop at an average rate of 1° for each 300 feet. Snowfalls will occur earlier, be heavier, and last longer in the season. Winds tend to blow gently up the slopes during the daylight hours, and somewhat more vigorously down the slopes at night. In the mornings, cold air that has pooled in the valley may produce valley fog when the upper slopes are in bright sunshine.