

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Sequoia National Park is located in the High Sierras of east-central California. It adjoins Kings Canyon National Park, and the two Parks are administered jointly. The Visitor Center for Sequoia is located at Giant Forest on CA-198, the Park's major road. The Park covers some 629 square miles, and is noted for two things: the numerous groves of giant sequoias, the world's most massive trees (their cousins, the coast redwoods tend to be a bit higher, but more slender), and Mt. Whitney, at 14,494 feet in elevation, the highest point in the continuous forty-eight states.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 9:59 | 10:50 | 11:57 | 13:07 | 14:06 | 14:37 | 14:24 | 13:34 | 12:28 | 11:18 | 10:16 | 9:44 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 3:53 | 5:10 | 5:51 | 7:43 | 9:18 | 11:45 | 12:48 | 11:54 | 10:42 | 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 | 15 ° | 15 ° | 18 ° | 23 ° | 29 ° | 37 ° | 46 ° | 45 ° | 39 ° | 32 ° | 25 ° | 19 ° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 23 ° | 24 ° | 26 ° | 30 ° | 36 ° | 44 ° | 51 ° | 50 ° | 45 ° | 38 ° | 30 ° | 26 ° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 41 ° | 44 ° | 48 ° | 53 ° | 59 ° | 68 ° | 77 ° | 77 ° | 72 ° | 62 ° | 50 ° | 43 ° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 51 ° | 53 ° | 59 ° | 63 ° | 68 ° | 75 ° | 83 ° | 82 ° | 80 ° | 70 ° | 59 ° | 52 ° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 94% | 94% | 88% | 61% | 29% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 20% | 59% | 82% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90 ° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 70% | 65% | 54% | 48% | 48% | 43% | 35% | 36% | 40% | 48% | 58% | 68% |
| DRY DAYS | 71% | 64% | 65% | 73% | 81% | 93% | 97% | 97% | 93% | 87% | 83% | 74% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 73% | 67% | 72% | 80% | 89% | 97% | 99% | 99% | 97% | 93% | 86% | 77% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 1.17 | 1.42 | 1.06 | 0.80 | 0.29 | 0.09 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.07 | 0.26 | 0.67 | 1.24 |
| LIKELY SNOWFALL | 42.4" | 45.7" | 42.6" | 25.4" | 4.7" | 0.6" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.2" | 4.1" | 11.9" | 33.8" |
| DAYS WITH SOME SNOW | 17% | 20% | 23% | 14% | 5% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 5% | 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 daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 39% in January, to a high of 89% in July. The lowest temperature for the year should be close to 13°, and the highest should be near 85°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones, due to the fog 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.