

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Pinnacles National Monument is located in west-central California. The Monument is situated in the Gabilan Mountains, to the east of the Salinas Valley. The Monument covers some twenty-five square miles of wilderness, featuring finger-like, red-rock volcanic pinnacles, numerous caves, and seasonal birding and wildflowers. These are low mountains, with elevations generally up to 3,300 feet. The Monument is serviced by CA-146 from both sides, from San Benito and from Soledad. However, the road is not continuous through the Monument. At the present time, the Monument is for day use only, with occasional night hikes led by rangers. Most of the facilities are around 1,500 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:59	10:50	11:57	13:06	14:06	14:37	14:24	13:34	12:28	11:18	10:17	9:44
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:59	6:36	8:17	10:09	11:39	13:03	13:08	12:09	10:51	9:14	7:06	4:59
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	43%	48%	57%	66%	78%	85%	84%	80%	71%	57%	41%
LOW FOR MONTH	16°	21°	24°	28°	31°	35°	39°	40°	39°	28°	23°	16°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	33°	35°	37°	39°	43°	47°	51°	50°	48°	43°	37°	33°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	61°	63°	66°	72°	80°	88°	95°	95°	91°	82°	70°	62°
HIGH FOR MONTH	82°	79°	84°	91°	100°	106°	106°	106°	107°	102°	89°	84°
FROSTY MORNINGS	52%	36%	23%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	25%	51%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	4%	18%	46%	80%	79%	59%	23%	1%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	57%	50%	42%	38%	37%	37%	39%	39%	43%	54%	64%
DRY DAYS	71%	68%	71%	83%	90%	97%	99%	99%	97%	90%	80%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	81%	82%	82%	90%	97%	99%	99%	99%	98%	94%	88%	84%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.52	0.53	0.48	0.22	0.07	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.11	0.28	0.45
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	27%	17%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	5%	16%	29%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 76% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a "low" of 50% in January, to a high of 91% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 14°, and the highest should be near 109°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones, due to low humidity. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation—and *vice versa* going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets, and therefore in its temperature and humidity.