

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK (WESTERN SLOPES), COLORADO

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain National Park is located in the Rocky Mountains of north-central Colorado. The Park straddles in the Front Range, with the western slopes mostly in the southwest corner of the Park. Elevations range from 8,400 feet to 13,118 at Isolation Peak. Most of the visitor's facilities are at the lower elevation, near Grand Lake. Trail Ridge Road (US-34) enters the western slope from the north, and continues south down to its junction with US-40 at Granby. Grand Lake can be reached along this road from the south all year, but north of that community the Trail Ridge Road is only open from the time they dig it out in late May until the first heavy snows close it sometime in October.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:40	10:39	11:55	13:15	14:24	15:00	14:45	13:47	12:31	11:11	10:01	9:23
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:13	7:02	7:52	8:29	9:04	10:33	10:31	9:36	8:58	7:50	6:26	5:49
AREA OF BLUE SKY	48%	45%	43%	41%	41%	52%	54%	53%	58%	57%	51%	49%
LOW FOR MONTH	-23°	-20°	-14°	-1°	17°	25°	30°	30°	19°	12°	-8°	-13°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	1°	2°	8°	19°	28°	34°	39°	38°	31°	23°	13°	4°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	28°	32°	37°	47°	59°	69°	75°	72°	66°	56°	40°	30°
HIGH FOR MONTH	39°	44°	49°	60°	70°	78°	83°	81°	77°	69°	52°	43°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	99%	98%	85%	44%	15%	17%	65%	93%	99%	99%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	52%	48%	44%	38%	39%	35%	34%	34%	35%	38%	47%	52%
DRY DAYS	79%	79%	74%	74%	78%	79%	68%	57%	73%	85%	83%	76%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	84%	86%	84%	82%	83%	85%	83%	79%	85%	91%	89%	85%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.25	0.21	0.21	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.30	0.30	0.22	0.16	0.17	0.23
LIKELY SNOWFALL	23.7"	19.1"	19.7"	16.7"	4.2"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	1.9"	6.0"	12.9"	23.0"
SNOWY DAYS	21%	21%	26%	26%	6%	0%	0%	0%	4%	9%	17%	24%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	7%	21%	30%	38%	31%	14%	4%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	5%	5%	4%	5%	3%	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 67% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 62% in January, to a high of 72% in September. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -25°, and the highest should be near 85°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones. 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. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets.