

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT, COLORADO & UTAH

LOCATION: Hovenweep National Monument occupies several sites on both sides of the Utah-Colorado state line in the “four corners” country of southeastern Utah and southwestern Colorado. It consists of a number of abandoned pueblos dating to the thirteenth century. Access is by what may generously be described as dirt roads across Indian Reservations and BLM lands. It’s nice and isolated. Elevations are about a mile above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:55	10:48	11:56	13:09	14:10	14:42	14:29	13:37	12:28	11:17	10:13	9:39
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:36	7:26	8:22	9:44	11:06	12:05	10:51	10:00	9:45	8:37	7:17	6:24
AREA OF BLUE SKY	47%	46%	46%	48%	54%	65%	55%	56%	64%	63%	56%	50%
LOW FOR MONTH	-5 °	2 °	11 °	16 °	27 °	35 °	42 °	45 °	36 °	22 °	3 °	-4 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	14 °	21 °	26 °	32 °	41 °	50 °	58 °	56 °	47 °	35 °	25 °	16 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	41 °	49 °	58 °	68 °	78 °	89 °	95 °	92 °	83 °	70 °	54 °	42 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	53 °	63 °	72 °	81 °	92 °	101 °	103 °	99 °	93 °	83 °	69 °	55 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	96%	93%	81%	54%	11%	0%	0%	0%	2%	37%	84%	96%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	55%	88%	71%	18%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	58%	49%	36%	28%	23%	21%	31%	35%	33%	38%	47%	58%
DRY DAYS	84%	82%	81%	83%	84%	93%	81%	77%	83%	84%	83%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	92%	91%	91%	93%	93%	97%	91%	90%	91%	91%	91%	92%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.15	0.17	0.17	0.13	0.11	0.05	0.14	0.18	0.17	0.22	0.18	0.15
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.3 "	3.4 "	2.2 "	0.6 "	0.1 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.4 "	1.6 "	5.7 "
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	9%	6%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	10%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	3%	6%	12%	15%	33%	32%	16%	6%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	7%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 74% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 66% in December, to a high of 82% in June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -7 ° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 104 ° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 5 ° cooler than actual ones, due to low humidity. Summers are very sunny, very hot, and very dry. Thunderstorms bring some relief, but it doesn’t last. Winters are fairly sunny, short, and quite cold. Except for less than a dozen days, afternoons will always warm to above the freezing point. However, a half-dozen sunrises will see temperatures below zero. The best weather can be found in May, June, and September. There’s not a lot of shade.

During a visit, I noted the following comments in the Visitor’s Register: “Where the hell am I, and how the hell do I get out of here?” and “The Ranger was gone when we got here. He was smarter than we were!”