

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO CHAMA & THE CUMBRES & TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD, NEW MEXICO

LOCATION: The town of Chama is located in Rio Arriba County in extreme north-central New Mexico—just a few miles from the Colorado border. Chama is situated in a high mountain valley, near the upper end of the Chama River, and well within the embrace of the San Juan Mountains. Elevations in town are around 7,850 feet above sea level, with the nearby mountains rising some 3,000 feet higher. Chama is the southern terminus of the narrow-gauge Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, which runs up into Colorado through high-mountain scenery.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 9:57 | 10:49 | 11:57 | 13:07 | 14:08 | 14:39 | 14:26 | 13:35 | 12:28 | 11:17 | 10:15 | 9:42 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 6:46 | 7:21 | 7:55 | 8:42 | 9:19 | 10:48 | 9:32 | 9:08 | 9:10 | 8:19 | 7:15 | 6:35 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 59% | 56% | 55% | 53% | 53% | 62% | 52% | 57% | 63% | 67% | 64% | 61% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | -12 ° | -9 ° | -1 ° | 7 ° | 19 ° | 24 ° | 38 ° | 38 ° | 28 ° | 15 ° | -3 ° | -9 ° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 7 ° | 10 ° | 16 ° | 24 ° | 32 ° | 39 ° | 47 ° | 46 ° | 39 ° | 29 ° | 18 ° | 10 ° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 37 ° | 40 ° | 46 ° | 56 ° | 65 ° | 77 ° | 81 ° | 78 ° | 73 ° | 63 ° | 49 ° | 39 ° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 53 ° | 53 ° | 60 ° | 69 ° | 77 ° | 88 ° | 90 ° | 89 ° | 84 ° | 77 ° | 64 ° | 54 ° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 100% | 100% | 100% | 92% | 53% | 13% | 0% | 0% | 15% | 66% | 98% | 100% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90 ° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 5% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 55% | 49% | 39% | 31% | 29% | 27% | 36% | 39% | 37% | 36% | 46% | 57% |
| DRY DAYS | 77% | 75% | 77% | 83% | 84% | 90% | 71% | 68% | 80% | 87% | 87% | 81% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 84% | 84% | 85% | 87% | 87% | 90% | 82% | 76% | 85% | 87% | 88% | 85% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.32 | 0.33 | 0.29 | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.14 | 0.36 | 0.42 | 0.31 | 0.26 | 0.19 | 0.29 |
| LIKELY SNOWFALL | 24.5" | 21.4" | 18.8" | 8.4" | 2.5" | 0.1" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.4" | 2.9" | 9.7" | 20.5" |
| DAYS WITH SOME SNOW | 23% | 25% | 23% | 10% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 11% | 19% |
| DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER | 0% | 1% | 1% | 7% | 23% | 26% | 52% | 47% | 20% | 7% | 0% | 0% |
| DAYS WITH SOME FOG | 7% | 5% | 4% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 5% | 8% |

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 69% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 66% from March through May (and again in thundery July), to a high of 74% in June (and again after the storms in September and October). The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -15 on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 93 on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be one or two degrees cooler than actual ones during the warmer weather, and pretty much the same as actual temperatures the rest of the time. Winters are long and very cold at this elevation—but sunny! This afternoon sun allows temperatures to climb above freezing four out of five winter afternoons, even though the mornings are bitter cold—below zero one sunrise in five. The most pleasant weather comes from May through October.