

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SANTA FE AREA, NEW MEXICO

LOCATION: Santa Fe, the capital of the state of New Mexico, is located in the Rio Grande Valley in the north-central part of the state. It is situated on the Santa Fe River in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Elevations in town are around 7,000 feet above sea level, but Baldy Peak northeast of town rises to 12,622 feet in elevation. Santa Fe is the oldest state capital in the United States. The city plaza and the Palace of the Governors date to 1610. One of the houses (now a shop) dates to the 1200's. The city itself is its own chief attraction. There are literally dozens of historic buildings, churches, and museums.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:03	10:52	11:57	13:05	14:02	14:32	14:20	13:31	12:27	11:19	10:20	9:48
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:14	7:45	8:29	9:38	10:31	11:36	9:52	9:35	9:26	8:58	7:50	6:56
AREA OF BLUE SKY	64%	60%	60%	60%	62%	68%	54%	64%	66%	72%	68%	65%
LOW FOR MONTH	2°	6°	12°	21°	30°	40°	50°	48°	38°	25°	12°	5°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	19°	22°	27°	34°	43°	52°	57°	55°	49°	38°	27°	20°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	40°	44°	51°	60°	70°	80°	82°	80°	75°	63°	51°	42°
HIGH FOR MONTH	52°	56°	64°	75°	79°	88°	88°	87°	82°	74°	63°	54°
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	91%	73%	38%	5%	0%	0%	0%	8%	18%	73%	94%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	11%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	51%	49%	41%	34%	32%	29%	36%	38%	40%	39%	42%	53%
DRY DAYS	81%	76%	78%	81%	78%	81%	60%	61%	75%	84%	88%	82%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	94%	93%	92%	93%	92%	90%	81%	79%	87%	90%	93%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.15	0.20	0.18	0.38	0.38	0.24	0.18	0.11	0.12
LIKELY SNOWFALL	6.0"	6.3"	5.0"	2.7"	0.3"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	0.7"	3.2"	6.7"
SNOWY DAYS	17%	21%	16%	10%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	10%	16%
THUNDER DAYS	10%	11%	3%	6%	22%	27%	58%	51%	22%	9%	11%	10%
FOGGY DAYS	11%	13%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	11%	11%	11%	11%	3%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 74% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 69% in July, to a high of 80% a few weeks earlier in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -1°, and the highest should be near 89°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones—especially during the spring and autumn. Santa Fe has one of the highest incidences of summer thunderstorms in the country--and the nearby mountains get even more. Not all of these storms bring rain. What are called "dry lightning" storms are common. In addition, when the air is dry, much of the rain that does fall evaporates before it reaches the ground ("*virga*"). The Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the east block the early-morning sunshine.