

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO GRANTS AND EL MALPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO

LOCATION: Grants is located on I-40 in northwestern New Mexico, a bit more than halfway from Albuquerque to Gallup. It is situated in the high desert country of the Colorado Plateau region, at an elevation of some 6,500 feet above sea level. El Malpais National Monument starts just south of town. Grants is also a good base of operations for visits to El Morro National Monument, and to the pueblos of Acoma and Laguna. Mount Taylor (11,301'), just out of town to the northeast, is one of the four mountains sacred to the Navajo. Grants has an excellent mining museum. Visitor facilities tend to be cheap and plentiful—especially off-season.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:05	10:54	11:57	13:04	14:00	14:29	14:17	13:29	12:26	11:20	10:22	9:51
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:53	7:34	8:30	9:48	11:01	11:51	10:19	9:41	9:45	8:53	7:41	6:48
AREA OF BLUE SKY	51%	50%	50%	55%	59%	68%	54%	55%	66%	67%	61%	55%
LOW FOR MONTH	-11 °	-4 °	7 °	19 °	27 °	36 °	43 °	40 °	29 °	21 °	-4 °	-5 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	15 °	19 °	24 °	31 °	39 °	48 °	55 °	53 °	45 °	33 °	22 °	15 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	47 °	52 °	58 °	67 °	76 °	86 °	88 °	85 °	80 °	69 °	57 °	46 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	58 °	64 °	72 °	79 °	88 °	94 °	95 °	91 °	89 °	80 °	68 °	57 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	95%	85%	62%	19%	1%	0%	0%	5%	50%	89%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	36%	43%	21%	4%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	47%	39%	30%	23%	21%	20%	30%	34%	31%	33%	40%	49%
DRY DAYS	88%	86%	87%	89%	90%	90%	72%	68%	80%	84%	87%	87%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	94%	96%	94%	96%	95%	94%	85%	82%	88%	91%	94%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.31	0.37	0.22	0.18	0.09	0.11
LIKELY SNOWFALL	2.6"	3.2"	2.2"	0.6"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.5"	1.1"	4.7"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	7%	9%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	9%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	1%	3%	12%	17%	46%	47%	16%	7%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	4%	6%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 74% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 68% in January, to a high of 82% in June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -12° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 97° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones due to the low humidity. Summers are hot, sunny, and dry—with occasional thunderstorms. Winters are cold, sunny, and dry—with occasional light frontal precipitation. Most of the winter precipitation comes as light snows. The best weather comes in May and June, and then again in September and early October.