

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ELKO AND THE HIGH DESERT, NEVADA

LOCATION: Elko, the county seat of Elko County, is located in the northeastern corner of the state of Nevada. Elko is situated in the sagebrush of the Humboldt River valley, at an elevation of some 5,100 feet above sea level. The nearby Ruby Mountains rise to some 11,000 feet in altitude.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:37	10:37	11:55	13:17	14:27	15:04	14:48	13:49	12:31	11:10	9:58	9:19
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:51	5:55	7:23	8:58	10:31	11:54	12:40	11:42	10:18	8:08	5:39	4:35
AREA OF BLUE SKY	34%	35%	36%	38%	46%	58%	70%	69%	68%	58%	41%	37%
LOW FOR MONTH	-12 °	-3 °	8 °	17 °	23 °	30 °	37 °	35 °	24 °	15 °	3 °	-7 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	11 °	18 °	24 °	29 °	36 °	42 °	48 °	45 °	36 °	28 °	20 °	12 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	37 °	43 °	51 °	60 °	70 °	80 °	91 °	89 °	79 °	66 °	51 °	39 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	50 °	56 °	66 °	76 °	85 °	94 °	99 °	97 °	92 °	81 °	66 °	53 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	94%	88%	72%	31%	5%	0%	0%	26%	71%	87%	96%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	15%	65%	49%	11%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	60%	53%	42%	33%	31%	25%	19%	19%	22%	29%	48%	60%
DRY DAYS	76%	74%	76%	81%	80%	85%	91%	92%	90%	87%	81%	78%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	89%	91%	90%	91%	89%	91%	97%	96%	94%	94%	89%	89%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.19	0.16	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.11	0.14	0.17
LIKELY SNOWFALL	10.3"	6.3"	5.5"	2.0"	0.8"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	0.7"	3.8"	8.7"
SNOWY DAYS	23%	19%	16%	7%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	10%	20%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	1%	3%	11%	12%	15%	14%	7%	2%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	6%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	4%

COMMENTS: The area has a mid-latitude high desert climate. The sun shines on close to 70% of the year's daylight hours, with July getting 86% and December a still healthy 49%. Temperatures range widely in the absence of moisture, and lows of up to twenty below zero can be expected in winter and highs of more than a hundred degrees in summer. The precipitation varies widely from one month to another and from one year to another, but is usually quite light. Most of it comes during the cooler months, in the form of snow. Because of the low humidities and frequent sunshine, this snow rarely stays on the ground in town for more than a few days. The almost mile-high elevation keeps summer afternoons from getting as hot as they otherwise might, but also keeps about one winter afternoon in four below freezing. In addition, summer nights will be quite chilly and winter nights bitterly cold. Rural life in this part of the country is often hard, dirty, and dangerous. The men (and women) who work these jobs sometimes like to let off the pressure in a boisterous manner. Visiting city-dwellers might want to mind their manners in some of the rougher places.