

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK, UTAH

LOCATION: Capitol Reef National Park is located in the southeastern quarter of the state of Utah. The Park is situated primarily upon an upthrust fold of rock capped by dome-like summits of white sandstone (hence the "capitol") and offering a barrier to travel (the "reef"). The whole formation is usually called the Waterpocket Fold (it has many hollows that trap rainwater), and borders on Glen Canyon Recreation Area to the south. Elevations range between 4,000 and 9,000 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:50	10:45	11:56	13:11	14:14	14:47	14:34	13:40	12:29	11:15	10:09	9:34
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:18	7:12	8:21	9:37	10:58	12:21	11:13	10:31	10:07	8:40	7:04	6:02
AREA OF BLUE SKY	45%	44%	46%	49%	55%	67%	60%	62%	68%	64%	55%	48%
LOW FOR MONTH	-9°	-1°	14°	22°	32°	39°	47°	44°	33°	19°	9°	-3°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	18°	23°	30°	38°	46°	55°	62°	60°	53°	43°	30°	20°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	41°	47°	57°	66°	76°	87°	92°	89°	82°	69°	53°	43°
HIGH FOR MONTH	54°	59°	69°	78°	87°	97°	100°	97°	91°	80°	70°	54°
FROSTY MORNINGS	36%	35%	27%	6%	-13%	-18%	-18%	-18%	-16%	-2%	29%	36%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	41%	76%	54%	20%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	56%	47%	37%	28%	24%	19%	24%	28%	27%	32%	44%	55%
DRY DAYS	85%	83%	85%	87%	89%	91%	82%	76%	86%	87%	89%	86%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	95%	94%	95%	97%	95%	97%	93%	90%	95%	94%	95%	95%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.07	0.14	0.18	0.12	0.15	0.09	0.05
LIKELY SNOWFALL	6.0"	3.1"	2.5"	0.5"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	2.1"	5.1"
SNOWY DAYS	14%	10%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	12%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	1%	2%	6%	12%	13%	33%	34%	15%	5%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	8%	5%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	3%	6%

COMMENTS: The area has a high desert version of the mid-latitude four-season year. Bright sunshine occurs on 74% of the year's daylight hours, ranging from a "low" of 63% in December to a high of 84% in June. The low temperature for the year will be near -13° some windless winter sunrise, while the high will be around 103° some sunny summer afternoon. Precipitation is sparse and varies significantly from year to year. A typical summer afternoon will be very sunny, very arid, and very hot. Sensible temperatures will average about 5° cooler than actual ones. Summer nights are mild to cool. Afternoon thundershowers are a feature of the season, but only a bit over half of them will bring rain all the way to the ground. A typical winter afternoon will be sunny, moderately humid, and chilly to cold. A dozen afternoons will not make it above freezing. Snowfalls are common, and may remain on the ground for days.