

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LITTLE RIVER CANYON NATIONAL PRESERVE, ALABAMA

LOCATION: The Little River Canyon National Preserve is located in the northeastern quadrant of Alabama. The Preserve is situated on the Little River, a tributary of the Coosa River, and encloses the best parts of the gorge and canyon system. The Preserve covers some 14,000 acres. DeSoto State Park lies within the boundaries of the Preserve. A National Preserve differs from a National Park in that the former allows hunting in at least some part of the Preserve. The Preserve offers world class whitewater kayaking and canoeing, rock-climbing, swimming, fishing, hiking, camping, and (in season) hunting. The Preserve headquarters is in Fort Payne. Elevations in the Preserve vary. The table assumes an elevation of 1,000 feet above sea level.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 10:08 | 10:56 | 11:57 | 13:02 | 13:57 | 14:26 | 14:14 | 13:27 | 12:26 | 11:21 | 10:25 | 9:54 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 4:35 | 5:35 | 6:34 | 8:15 | 9:17 | 9:31 | 8:45 | 8:28 | 7:52 | 7:24 | 5:59 | 4:37 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 35% | 37% | 39% | 44% | 43% | 43% | 40% | 43% | 46% | 53% | 45% | 37% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 7° | 6° | 21° | 33° | 41° | 48° | 53° | 54° | 44° | 33° | 17° | 11° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 30° | 31° | 37° | 46° | 54° | 62° | 65° | 64° | 59° | 47° | 36° | 30° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 51° | 54° | 62° | 72° | 80° | 87° | 89° | 89° | 84° | 74° | 62° | 53° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 65° | 67° | 76° | 82° | 90° | 95° | 98° | 97° | 94° | 85° | 73° | 66° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 69% | 61% | 40% | 14% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 13% | 44% | 61% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 6% | 28% | 45% | 46% | 20% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 59% | 54% | 51% | 47% | 51% | 53% | 56% | 56% | 56% | 50% | 54% | 58% |
| DRY DAYS | 76% | 74% | 74% | 77% | 77% | 74% | 73% | 75% | 83% | 84% | 82% | 76% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 75% | 72% | 75% | 75% | 81% | 78% | 75% | 84% | 82% | 85% | 78% | 75% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.82 | 0.94 | 0.95 | 0.84 | 0.67 | 0.70 | 0.79 | 0.65 | 0.55 | 0.48 | 0.61 | 0.81 |
| DAYS WITH SOME SNOW | 4% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% |
| DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER | 4% | 7% | 13% | 14% | 22% | 29% | 34% | 27% | 13% | 5% | 6% | 3% |
| DAYS WITH SOME FOG | 13% | 9% | 5% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 5% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 8% | 10% |

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 59% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 45% in January, to a high of 66% in May and June and again in October. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 5°, and the highest should be near 99°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 6° hotter than actual ones during the heat of summer, and pretty much the same as actual ones the rest of the year. The area has a four-season year, with long hot summers and short mild winters. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition, with spells of summer-like weather and spells of winter-like weather chasing one another across the calendar. Nevertheless, these two seasons offer the best weather for a visit. Whitewater activities are confined to the late-fall through early-spring season. No hunting is permitted from May 1st through August 31st, the period when back-country camping is available.