

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ALPINE AND THE CORONADO TRAIL, ARIZONA

LOCATION: The small town of Alpine is located in extreme east-central Arizona, about seven miles from the border with New Mexico. Alpine is situated high up in the mountains in the narrow valley of the upper San Francisco River. The town is surrounded by the dense stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir of the Apache National Forest. Elevations in town are a bit over 8,000 feet above sea level.

|                        | JAN   | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUN   | JUL   | AUG   | SEP   | OCT   | NOV   | DEC   |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT      | 10:11 | 10:57 | 11:58 | 13:01 | 13:54 | 14:22 | 14:11 | 13:25 | 12:25 | 11:23 | 10:27 | 9:58  |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE      | 7:48  | 8:29  | 9:31  | 10:53 | 11:52 | 12:34 | 10:31 | 10:18 | 10:13 | 9:35  | 8:29  | 7:31  |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY       | 58%   | 57%   | 57%   | 64%   | 68%   | 73%   | 51%   | 58%   | 68%   | 71%   | 67%   | 59%   |
| LOW FOR MONTH          | -10°  | -8°   | -4°   | 8°    | 18°   | 24°   | 36°   | 36°   | 26°   | 13°   | -1°   | -8°   |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE    | 10°   | 13°   | 17°   | 22°   | 27°   | 35°   | 44°   | 43°   | 35°   | 27°   | 16°   | 11°   |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE  | 46°   | 47°   | 51°   | 60°   | 68°   | 77°   | 78°   | 76°   | 73°   | 65°   | 55°   | 48°   |
| HIGH FOR MONTH         | 59°   | 60°   | 62°   | 69°   | 77°   | 85°   | 85°   | 82°   | 80°   | 75°   | 66°   | 60°   |
| FROSTY MORNINGS        | 100%  | 100%  | 97%   | 91%   | 76%   | 33%   | 2%    | 2%    | 40%   | 84%   | 97%   | 100%  |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90°    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 1%    | 1%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY     | 62%   | 59%   | 53%   | 43%   | 36%   | 36%   | 68%   | 73%   | 57%   | 54%   | 58%   | 63%   |
| DRY DAYS               | 76%   | 77%   | 77%   | 86%   | 86%   | 81%   | 30%   | 32%   | 62%   | 76%   | 88%   | 83%   |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS    | 86%   | 86%   | 86%   | 92%   | 94%   | 92%   | 67%   | 67%   | 81%   | 86%   | 92%   | 89%   |
| TOTAL PRECIPITATION    | 1.5"  | 1.2"  | 1.3"  | 0.7"  | 0.6"  | 0.8"  | 3.7"  | 3.8"  | 2.2"  | 1.9"  | 1.1"  | 1.4"  |
| LIKELY SNOWFALL        | 15.6" | 13.0" | 11.5" | 3.3"  | 0.6"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.3"  | 5.3"  | 13.4" |
| DAYS WITH SOME SNOW    | 24%   | 23%   | 19%   | 6%    | 2%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 6%    | 16%   |
| DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER | 5%    | 5%    | 2%    | 4%    | 12%   | 17%   | 50%   | 47%   | 20%   | 8%    | 6%    | 5%    |
| DAYS WITH SOME FOG     | 5%    | 6%    | 5%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 5%    | 5%    | 5%    | 5%    | 2%    |

COMMENTS: Most visitors reach Alpine after driving the scenic Coronado Trail (US-191) up from Clifton, to the south. Parts of the Trail are extremely steep and much of it is very winding. You should allow a minimum of three hours to drive the 93 miles from Clifton to Alpine. Many of the curves are posted at 10 mph. In snowy or wet weather, you'll go even slower. The Trail is not recommended for trailers more than twenty feet in length. There are lots of scenic turn-outs along the route, all with spectacular views. The drive is especially popular during the fall color season.

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest has almost two dozen campgrounds along the Trail and in the Alpine area. In addition, dispersed camping is allowed out of sight of the road. Many campgrounds have no water available, and all local water supplies *must* be purified before use.