

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO PAYSON AND THE “UNDER THE RIM” COUNTRY, ARIZONA

LOCATION: Payson is located in Gila County in central Arizona. The town is situated south of the Mogollon Rim in an area of forest-covered low mountains. Elevations are just under five-thousand feet above sea level. The forest around Payson is all part of the Tonto National Forest, and there is a district ranger station in Payson. Tonto Natural Bridge State Park is northwest of town, and the Mazatzal Wilderness is to the southwest.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:09	10:56	11:57	13:02	13:56	14:24	14:13	13:27	12:26	11:22	10:26	9:56
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:31	8:22	9:27	10:53	12:24	12:54	10:14	9:29	10:12	9:19	8:24	7:27
AREA OF BLUE SKY	50%	51%	50%	56%	63%	74%	50%	51%	66%	66%	62%	55%
LOW FOR MONTH	1°	3°	14°	21°	28°	36°	45°	46°	38°	24°	10°	5°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	21°	24°	27°	33°	38°	46°	57°	56°	48°	37°	27°	22°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53°	56°	61°	69°	78°	88°	91°	88°	84°	74°	62°	55°
HIGH FOR MONTH	66°	70°	75°	79°	88°	97°	99°	95°	93°	84°	74°	70°
FROSTY MORNINGS	87%	86%	76%	47%	13%	1%	0%	0%	0%	17%	71%	90%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	46%	70%	45%	25%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	52%	45%	38%	31%	23%	21%	38%	38%	36%	40%	42%	54%
DRY DAYS	82%	80%	78%	84%	90%	92%	65%	65%	81%	87%	86%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	85%	84%	87%	93%	97%	97%	81%	78%	89%	90%	90%	86%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.38	0.36	0.33	0.18	0.07	0.08	0.44	0.52	0.31	0.26	0.25	0.33
LIKELY SNOWFALL	6.9"	5.2"	4.4"	1.2"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	2.0"	5.3"
SNOWY DAYS	5%	5%	5%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	1%	2%	4%	7%	11%	49%	49%	21%	7%	3%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	5%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	3%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 80% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 71% in August, to a high of 90% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -2°, and the highest should be near 102°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones. Only a two-hour drive from the Phoenix metropolitan area, Payson is a center for forest-based recreation of all kinds. Fishing, hunting, camping, mountain-biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing (in winter, of course). The area is extremely popular during summer weekends and holidays. Reservations may be necessary at those times. There is, however, an abundance of motels, resorts, and rental cabins in the general area.