

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE VERDE VALLEY RECREATION AREA, ARIZONA

LOCATION: The Verde (Spanish for “green”) River has its source high on the Coconino Plateau south of the Grand Canyon. It eventually joins the Salt River east of Phoenix. This guide deals with the section of it that lies between Perkinsville and Camp Verde, in Yavapai County, in central Arizona. The countryside is mostly an open woodland of oak chaparral, pinyon pine, juniper, and ponderosa pine, mixed in with various grasses. Elevations are around 3,300 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:08	10:55	11:57	13:02	13:58	14:26	14:14	13:28	12:26	11:21	10:24	9:54
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:29	8:20	9:27	10:53	12:25	12:57	10:17	9:31	10:13	9:19	8:23	7:25
AREA OF BLUE SKY	50%	51%	50%	56%	63%	74%	50%	51%	66%	66%	62%	55%
LOW FOR MONTH	12°	17°	22°	27°	35°	44°	54°	50°	44°	31°	19°	16°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	26°	28°	33°	39°	46°	53°	63°	62°	54°	43°	31°	25°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	59°	65°	70°	78°	88°	97°	101°	98°	94°	83°	69°	60°
HIGH FOR MONTH	71°	76°	82°	89°	98°	107°	107°	105°	103°	92°	78°	69°
FROSTY MORNINGS	81%	71%	52%	14%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	62%	83%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	11%	48%	85%	97%	94%	77%	25%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	47%	41%	32%	27%	23%	23%	32%	38%	35%	39%	43%	50%
DRY DAYS	82%	80%	78%	84%	90%	92%	65%	65%	81%	87%	86%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	88%	87%	90%	91%	97%	97%	86%	82%	91%	92%	91%	88%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.12	0.05	0.06	0.23	0.32	0.21	0.15	0.13	0.17
SNOWY DAYS	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	1%	2%	4%	7%	11%	48%	49%	21%	7%	3%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	5%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	3%	5%

COMMENTS: This is a pleasant, low-key recreation area, viewed from the car window and quickly forgotten by the hordes of tourists driving from Phoenix north to Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon. It is also viewed with some disdain by many of the upscale residents of Sedona farther upstream. The area has much to offer, however, and at a considerably lower price. Chief attractions are Montezuma Castle National Monument, Tuzigoot National Monument, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, excursions on the Verde Canyon Railroad, and float trips on the Verde River. There is also camping, hiking, riding, fishing, and hunting in the surrounding Prescott National forest. Accommodations, restaurants, and shops can be found in the various communities of the valley. The largest of these are Camp Verde and Cottonwood. The two National Monuments have Visitor’s Centers and picnic areas, but no camping.