

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE WICKENBURG GUEST RANCH COUNTRY, ARIZONA

LOCATION: Wickenburg is located in central Arizona. The town lies some 50 miles northwest of Phoenix along US-89. It is situated on the banks of the often dry Hassayampa River in the cactus-covered hill country of the Sonoran Desert. Elevations are just over 2,000 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	13:55	14:23	14:11	13:26	12:26	11:22	10:27	9:57
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:38	8:26	9:46	11:04	12:32	13:16	11:09	10:24	10:42	9:40	8:35	7:33
AREA OF BLUE SKY	54%	55%	56%	62%	70%	79%	62%	59%	70%	71%	67%	59%
LOW FOR MONTH	20°	23°	28°	33°	41°	48°	58°	57°	48°	35°	26°	20°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	30°	33°	37°	43°	50°	58°	69°	68°	60°	48°	37°	31°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	63°	67°	72°	80°	90°	100°	103°	101°	96°	86°	73°	65°
HIGH FOR MONTH	76°	78°	85°	90°	102°	109°	110°	108°	106°	98°	83°	76°
FROSTY MORNINGS	65%	47%	21%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	24%	61%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	2%	13%	57%	90%	98%	97%	88%	36%	1%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	41%	33%	28%	21%	16%	15%	27%	32%	26%	27%	34%	40%
DRY DAYS	90%	88%	92%	93%	96%	97%	86%	85%	92%	93%	93%	90%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	94%	93%	92%	97%	98%	99%	92%	88%	93%	97%	95%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.20	0.19	0.16	0.09	0.03	0.03	0.22	0.32	0.17	0.10	0.12	0.19
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	3%	3%	4%	7%	34%	37%	15%	5%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 82% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 75% in January, to a high of 92% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 17°, and the highest should be near 114°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be very close to actual ones during the thunderstorm season of July through September, but up to 9° cooler than actual ones the rest of the year. Dubbed the "Dude Ranch Capital of the World", the area boasts a number of well-established guest ranches. Their high season runs from February through April. Once a significant gold-mining center, small amounts of gold (and larger amounts of "fool's gold") may still be panned in the local watercourses. The area is rich in abandoned workings and small ghost towns. In addition to the guest ranches, Wickenburg has a normal complement of motels, campgrounds, restaurants, and shops. There is a top-rated golf course, a nice museum, a nature preserve, and jeep tours. This is cactus country, and the desert is extremely photogenic when in bloom (mostly spring and early summer). I went to high school here many decades ago, and have spent many happy days roaming the hills and canyons searching for (and occasionally finding) small amounts of gold flake and dust.