

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK (VALLEY), CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: *Yosemite National Park* is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of east-central California. The Park is centered upon the valley of the Merced River and the mountains that border it. The Park Headquarters and Visitor's Center is located in the valley at an elevation of some 4,000 feet above sea level. Elevations in the Park reach all the way to 13,114 at the summit of Mount Lyell. This *Guide* applies to the Valley area, and (within limits) to similar elevations on the Park's western slopes. *Yosemite National Park* is a world-class destination.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:53	10:47	11:56	13:09	14:12	14:44	14:31	13:38	12:29	11:16	10:12	9:37
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:05	4:56	4:23	7:09	7:29	8:35	9:50	9:08	8:34	7:10	3:46	2:48
AREA OF BLUE SKY	26%	35%	27%	33%	43%	51%	64%	62%	63%	55%	32%	25%
LOW FOR MONTH	15°	17°	21°	26°	33°	38°	46°	44°	37°	29°	22°	17°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	25°	28°	31°	36°	42°	47°	53°	52°	46°	38°	30°	26°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	47°	53°	59°	66°	73°	82°	90°	89°	83°	72°	58°	47°
HIGH FOR MONTH	58°	65°	73°	80°	85°	92°	98°	97°	94°	84°	71°	58°
FROSTY MORNINGS	85%	76%	59%	29%	5%	0%	0%	0%	1%	14%	59%	85%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	16%	56%	55%	26%	4%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	75%	62%	54%	45%	38%	32%	27%	28%	32%	42%	57%	72%
DRY DAYS	71%	66%	69%	77%	83%	92%	95%	97%	92%	86%	78%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	75%	73%	75%	84%	91%	94%	98%	98%	95%	91%	83%	77%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.05	1.10	0.85	0.49	0.24	0.11	0.05	0.03	0.13	0.29	0.65	0.95
LIKELY SNOWFALL	21.5"	16.1"	14.4"	4.8"	0.3"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	3.3"	13.6"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	10%	9%	8%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	1%	1%	3%	3%	9%	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	49%	31%	9%	6%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	12%	37%	51%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 51% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 29% in December, to a high of 69% from July through September. The steep valley walls shade the valley floor throughout much of the day. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 11° at some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 99° on some equally clear and windless summer afternoon. Clear skies and calm airs tend to make the high temperatures higher and the low ones lower. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the warmer months. Elevation and—to a lesser degree—slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation—and *vice versa* going downhill. Snowfall is highly variable, both from year to year and from place to place. Snow can be found in sheltered places in the campgrounds and along the lower trails well into June. Many of the higher trails are snow-covered until July or even early August.