

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ASPEN RESORT AREA, COLORADO

LOCATION: The resort town of Aspen is located deep in the Rocky Mountains of west-central Colorado. It is situated on the banks of the Roaring Fork River, at an elevation of some 8,000 feet above sea level. The surrounding area is all a part of the White River National Forest. On the southwest side of the valley, the Elk Mountains rise to 14,265' at the summit of Castle Peak. The Sawatch Range, with 14,443' Mt. Ebert, looms to the northeast.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:46	10:42	11:56	13:13	14:19	14:53	14:39	13:43	12:30	11:13	10:05	9:29
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:14	7:03	7:48	8:47	9:41	11:11	10:47	9:53	9:22	8:06	6:35	5:55
AREA OF BLUE SKY	47%	45%	44%	44%	46%	58%	56%	56%	62%	60%	53%	49%
LOW FOR MONTH	-15°	-11°	-5°	7°	23°	27°	38°	35°	25°	13°	-1°	-6°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	7°	9°	15°	24°	32°	38°	44°	43°	36°	28°	16°	9°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	34°	37°	43°	53°	63°	74°	80°	78°	71°	60°	45°	36°
HIGH FOR MONTH	46°	49°	56°	66°	75°	83°	87°	85°	80°	69°	57°	49°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	99%	87%	46%	13%	0%	3%	24%	76%	97%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	54%	43%	34%	32%	31%	41%	44%	39%	40%	54%	64%
DRY DAYS	69%	62%	65%	63%	64%	72%	62%	54%	63%	71%	75%	70%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	81%	81%	83%	83%	87%	89%	84%	80%	86%	87%	83%	83%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.29	0.25	0.19	0.24	0.28	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.26
LIKELY SNOWFALL	26.3"	23.2"	23.1"	11.9"	2.9"	0.8"	0.0"	0.0"	1.4"	5.9"	17.8"	22.2"
SNOWY DAYS	31%	38%	35%	26%	7%	2%	0%	0%	4%	12%	25%	30%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	2%	6%	19%	20%	37%	37%	17%	5%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	9%	5%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	5%	8%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is probable on 69% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 62% in December, to a high of 75% in June and again in September. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -26°, and the highest might well be near 90°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be close to actual ones most of the year, but up to four degrees cooler during the warmer months. Snowfall amounts are for the town itself. You can expect the ski slopes to get more snow, get it earlier, and keep it later. In point of fact, snow flurries and snowfalls can occur any day of the year at the higher elevations. Aspen's only connection to the outside world is via highway CO-82. This highway runs from interstate I-70 at Glenwood Springs all the way to US-24 south of Leadville. For most of the year, you must come in from the direction of Glenwood Springs. Independence Pass, in the other direction, lies at over 12,000 feet and is usually closed from late October through early June.