

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT, COLORADO

LOCATION: Colorado National Monument is located in west-central Colorado, about twenty miles from the Utah border. The Monument is situated on the northern edge of the canyon-cut Uncompahgre Plateau. The Monument headquarters, visitor's center, and campground lie at an elevation of just about an even mile (5,280') above sea level. Other parts of the Monument rise to about 7,000 feet in elevation.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:46	10:43	11:56	13:13	14:18	14:52	14:38	13:43	12:30	11:13	10:06	9:29
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:47	6:42	7:45	8:59	10:18	11:46	11:19	10:20	9:39	8:11	6:30	5:36
AREA OF BLUE SKY	44%	43%	44%	45%	49%	64%	60%	59%	65%	62%	53%	47%
LOW FOR MONTH	0°	6°	13°	26°	34°	45°	52°	50°	40°	31°	16°	9°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	18°	23°	29°	37°	47°	57°	64°	61°	53°	42°	30°	21°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	36°	43°	51°	63°	74°	85°	92°	88°	79°	66°	49°	38°
HIGH FOR MONTH	46°	54°	62°	74°	83°	94°	97°	95°	90°	77°	61°	50°
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	88%	69%	34%	4%	0%	0%	0%	1%	12%	63%	95%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	30%	75%	40%	5%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	65%	52%	38%	29%	26%	20%	24%	27%	29%	36%	48%	61%
DRY DAYS	76%	78%	74%	77%	79%	86%	81%	74%	80%	82%	82%	79%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	90%	91%	90%	89%	92%	93%	92%	87%	90%	90%	91%	92%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.15	0.13	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.23	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.13
LIKELY SNOWFALL	11.1"	5.8"	6.1"	1.6"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	0.6"	4.5"	8.5"
SNOWY DAYS	23%	16%	12%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	8%	18%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	1%	4%	9%	17%	20%	35%	33%	18%	7%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	7%	5%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is probable on 70% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 59% in December and January, to a high of 79% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -2°, and the highest might well be near 99°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to four degrees cooler than actual ones from late February through early November. Summers are very sunny, very hot, and quite dry apart from the occasional thunderstorm. Not all of these thunderstorms have rain that actually reaches the ground. Winters are sunny, cold, and snowy. Spring and autumn as seasons of transition, when spells of summer-like weather chase spells of winter-like weather at intervals of from three to seven days. If you're camping, don't camp in the nice, level, sandy, cactus-free bottoms of the dry washes or canyons. Rainfall way back in the mountains can send a forty-foot wall of boulders, mud, trees, brush, and sand (mixed with a little water) down these watercourses without any warning.