

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE DENVER METROPOLITAN AREA, COLORADO

LOCATION: Denver is both the state capital and the largest city in Colorado. It is located in the north-central part of the state. Denver is situated on the eastern slopes of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. It is known as the "Mile-High" city because of its elevation (5,280 feet above sea level at the State Capitol Building). The metropolitan area, however, extends both higher up the mountain slopes and lower down toward the high plains at the mountain foot.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:43	10:41	11:56	13:14	14:21	14:57	14:42	13:45	12:30	11:12	10:03	9:26
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:44	7:20	7:54	8:36	8:56	10:27	10:15	9:30	9:00	7:55	6:36	6:12
AREA OF BLUE SKY	51%	48%	44%	43%	42%	52%	53%	52%	58%	58%	53%	53%
LOW FOR MONTH	-5°	0°	5°	19°	31°	42°	51°	49°	36°	23°	6°	-2°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	17°	20°	26°	35°	44°	53°	59°	58°	48°	38°	26°	20°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	43°	45°	51°	60°	69°	81°	87°	85°	77°	65°	52°	45°
HIGH FOR MONTH	64°	67°	72°	80°	86°	95°	97°	95°	92°	83°	72°	66°
FROSTY MORNINGS	92%	89%	75%	38%	6%	0%	0%	0%	1%	24%	72%	90%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	37%	26%	6%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	48%	44%	40%	37%	38%	34%	33%	34%	33%	35%	45%	49%
DRY DAYS	83%	79%	73%	70%	67%	74%	71%	71%	80%	82%	83%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	95%	94%	88%	87%	85%	87%	88%	90%	91%	92%	91%	95%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.07	0.10	0.18	0.33	0.38	0.24	0.28	0.23	0.18	0.17	0.11	0.11
LIKELY SNOWFALL	6.5"	7.5"	11.7"	9.3"	1.9"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	1.1"	4.2"	7.5"	8.3"
SNOWY DAYS	21%	29%	29%	17%	5%	0%	0%	0%	1%	8%	16%	20%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	6%	18%	31%	35%	31%	12%	3%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	6%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is probable on 68% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 62% in May, to a high of 72% in September. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -11°, and the highest might well be near 98°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to five degrees cooler than actual ones. Because of the considerable differences in both elevation and slope orientation within the metropolitan area, Denver has significant local climatic variations from one part of town to another. Local residents will be happy to tell you about them. The table data are for the city center. 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. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets.