

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT, COLORADO & UTAH

LOCATION: Dinosaur National Monument is located in northwestern Colorado and northeastern Utah. The border passes through the Monument, with the headquarters and most of the area going to Colorado and the Dinosaur Quarry over in Utah. The Monument is centered on the junction of the Yampa River with the larger Green River, a major tributary of the Colorado River. Elevations range from just under 5,000 feet on the Green River to just over 9,000 feet at Zenobia Peak, overlooking the Canyon of Lodore. Most of the campgrounds are closer to the lower elevations, and the summary applies primarily to that level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:39	10:39	11:55	13:16	14:25	15:01	14:46	13:47	12:31	11:11	10:00	9:21
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:16	6:24	7:40	9:01	10:23	11:55	11:42	10:42	9:52	8:07	6:04	5:00
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	38%	40%	41%	51%	61%	61%	61%	64%	59%	47%	40%
LOW FOR MONTH	-18°	-15°	1°	18°	28°	35°	43°	38°	28°	14°	0°	-14°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	1°	8°	20°	30°	39°	46°	53°	50°	40°	29°	18°	6°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	30°	39°	51°	63°	74°	85°	92°	89°	80°	67°	48°	34°
HIGH FOR MONTH	47°	53°	64°	75°	86°	96°	99°	98°	90°	77°	61°	48°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	96%	66%	14%	0%	0%	0%	18%	69%	94%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	34%	76%	54%	11%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	54%	41%	32%	28%	22%	23%	25%	28%	37%	51%	64%
DRY DAYS	86%	86%	85%	84%	85%	90%	87%	84%	87%	87%	90%	89%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	94%	94%	90%	93%	92%	95%	92%	92%	91%	93%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.10	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.10	0.10
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.8"	5.9"	3.8"	0.9"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	0.5"	2.9"	7.1"
SNOWY DAYS	30%	23%	19%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	27%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	2%	3%	7%	15%	17%	28%	28%	15%	6%	1%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	12%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	9%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is probable on 69% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 53% in December, to a high of 79% from June through September. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -20°, and the highest might well be near 99°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to five degrees cooler than actual ones, with the greatest drop occurring with the lowest humidities. The Monument has a desert version of the mid-latitude four-season climate. Summers are very sunny, hot to very hot, and quite dry aside from the occasional thunderstorm. Winters are moderately sunny, quite cold, and frequently snowy. Most of the snow comes in flurries, with the wind quickly sweeping what does fall into crevices and shady places. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition, with warm spells and cold spells alternating.