

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, KENTUCKY

LOCATION: Mammoth Cave National Park is located in western Kentucky. Park Headquarters is located just off KY-70, some 34 miles northeast of Bowling Green. Situated in the “knobs and sinkholes” section of the state, elevations at Park HQ are about 800 feet above sea level. The surface of the Park covers some 82 square miles of forested hills, glassy glades, drained by a number of scenic rivers and streams. Underneath this attractive landscape, there is an extremely large cavern complex, with over 200 miles of mapped passageways, with spectacular mineral formations. More are being mapped each year.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:56	10:48	11:56	13:08	14:09	14:41	14:28	13:36	12:28	11:17	10:14	9:40
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:10	5:08	6:05	7:29	8:29	9:37	9:20	8:50	7:59	6:56	4:55	3:58
AREA OF BLUE SKY	28%	31%	32%	36%	38%	42%	43%	46%	47%	49%	36%	30%
LOW FOR MONTH	3°	8°	19°	30°	40°	51°	57°	55°	44°	31°	20°	9°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	25°	27°	35°	45°	52°	60°	64°	63°	56°	45°	35°	28°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	45°	49°	59°	70°	78°	85°	88°	88°	82°	72°	57°	48°
HIGH FOR MONTH	64°	67°	77°	85°	88°	94°	96°	95°	92°	84°	75°	66°
FROSTY MORNINGS	71%	66%	49%	14%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	46%	61%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	23%	37%	37%	17%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	62%	58%	52%	49%	52%	53%	55%	53%	53%	50%	56%	61%
DRY DAYS	64%	62%	60%	62%	64%	68%	66%	73%	74%	76%	67%	64%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	76%	75%	71%	75%	77%	77%	77%	81%	83%	87%	78%	77%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.88	0.77	0.90	0.73	0.67	0.79	0.69	0.63	0.59	0.44	0.71	0.72
SNOWY DAYS	12%	10%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%
THUNDER DAYS	3%	5%	12%	16%	22%	26%	29%	23%	12%	5%	5%	3%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	4%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	4%	4%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 55% of the year’s daylight hours. This might range from a low of 41% in December, to a high of 66% in June. The year’s lowest temperature should be close to -1°, and the highest should be near 97°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones except during spring and autumn, when they are a bit lower. The table conditions, of course, apply only to the surface area of the Park. Inside the cavern complex, the temperatures remain remarkably constant at about 54°F (12°C), day or night, summer or winter. It feels a lot colder than this (no sunshine), so wear warm clothing for the cave tours. Sturdy footwear is also recommended, as most of the tours are somewhat strenuous, and the footing is not always great and is often wet. You are not permitted to leave the group or explore on your own under any conditions.