

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE TAOS RESORT AREA, NEW MEXICO

LOCATION: Taos is located in the north-central part of New Mexico. The city is situated in the valley of the Rio Grande, about ten miles to the east of the river itself. It sits on a rolling mesa, near the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The city itself lies at an elevation of just under 7,000 feet above sea level, with Wheeler Peak (the highest point in the state, at 13,161') just northeast of town. The city is known for its three historic pueblos: Taos, Taos Pueblo, and Ranchos de Taos. There are also popular ski resorts in the nearby mountains.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:59	10:50	11:57	13:06	14:06	14:37	14:24	13:33	12:27	11:18	10:17	9:44
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:10	7:48	8:33	9:29	10:25	11:41	10:32	9:58	9:34	8:39	7:32	6:44
AREA OF BLUE SKY	63%	57%	58%	55%	56%	64%	53%	62%	64%	69%	67%	64%
LOW FOR MONTH	-7°	-5°	6°	15°	25°	36°	42°	43°	32°	21°	2°	-6°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	11°	17°	23°	30°	38°	44°	51°	50°	42°	32°	21°	12°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	40°	46°	54°	64°	72°	83°	86°	84°	77°	66°	53°	42°
HIGH FOR MONTH	51°	60°	66°	73°	82°	92°	94°	92°	86°	78°	68°	55°
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	100%	94%	70%	19%	1%	0%	0%	3%	52%	97%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	13%	26%	19%	3%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	52%	49%	40%	33%	30%	28%	37%	39%	40%	38%	42%	54%
DRY DAYS	87%	86%	81%	80%	77%	83%	68%	71%	83%	87%	90%	87%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	94%	91%	90%	89%	92%	84%	85%	91%	93%	94%	95%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.15	0.20	0.15	0.30	0.30	0.20	0.16	0.11	0.11
LIKELY SNOWFALL	7.2"	5.2"	4.8"	1.8"	0.4"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.5"	2.8"	6.5"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	13%	13%	13%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	11%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	3%	10%	26%	33%	68%	55%	23%	10%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	4%	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 74% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a "low" of 69% in December, to a high of 80% in June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -10° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 97° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be pretty much the same—or just a touch cooler—than actual ones. Travelers in the nearby mountains should be aware that this is one of the most lightning-prone sections of the country. These storms are great to watch from a place of safety and comfort, but not so much fun if you're out in an exposed place. If you're out in the open and thunder-heads start to form, head downhill, away from the peaks. Stay away from tall trees (especially those already lightning-struck) and caves (yes, caves!).