

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO

LOCATION: White Sands National Monument is located in south-central New Mexico, between Las Cruces and Alamogordo. The Monument is situated in the Tularosa Valley, up against the eastern flanks of the San Andres Mountains. Elevations range from below 4,000 feet near the Visitor's Center to some 8,239 feet above sea level at the summit of San Andres Peak. The white sands that give the Monument its name are gypsum, not silica.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:16	11:00	11:58	12:59	13:50	14:17	14:06	13:22	12:25	11:24	10:31	10:03
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:39	8:35	9:47	11:00	11:47	12:23	11:02	10:24	9:48	9:14	8:18	7:18
AREA OF BLUE SKY	60%	61%	62%	67%	69%	72%	59%	60%	66%	70%	67%	61%
LOW FOR MONTH	6°	6°	20°	25°	36°	48°	56°	53°	42°	30°	14°	7°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	22°	25°	31°	39°	48°	58°	64°	62°	54°	41°	27°	21°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	57°	63°	70°	79°	88°	97°	97°	95°	90°	79°	66°	57°
HIGH FOR MONTH	68°	74°	81°	88°	96°	104°	104°	101°	97°	87°	76°	71°
FROSTY MORNINGS	75%	60%	33%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	45%	76%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	2%	26%	79%	80%	70%	37%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	39%	33%	25%	20%	22%	22%	30%	35%	34%	31%	33%	42%
DRY DAYS	89%	90%	93%	95%	91%	88%	76%	75%	82%	88%	92%	88%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	95%	96%	97%	98%	96%	95%	89%	89%	91%	94%	97%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.09	0.23	0.22	0.18	0.14	0.05	0.08
LIKELY SNOWFALL	1.5"	0.7"	0.4"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	1.6"
SNOWY DAYS	4%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%
THUNDER DAYS	3%	4%	3%	7%	13%	20%	42%	39%	17%	6%	3%	3%
FOGGY DAYS	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	3%	6%

COMMENTS: The area has a mid-latitude four-season desert climate. Precipitation is sparse and varies considerably from one year to another. Sunshine is abundant, with the year getting bright sunshine on 80% of its daylight hours. This ranges from a "low" of 73% in December to a high of 87% in June. Well over half the days of the year are clear. Temperatures range widely, from the single digits on the uncommon frigid winter morning to several degrees above the century mark on the equally uncommon windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures are up to six degrees cooler than actual ones, due to the low afternoon humidity. On the other hand, radiant heat from the dunes on sunny summer afternoons can add significantly to your body's heat load. The best times for a visit are in the spring and in the autumn, when the skies are sunny, rain is scarce, and the temperatures quite comfortable.