

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK (RIO GRANDE), TEXAS

LOCATION: Big Bend National Park is located north of the great bend in the Rio Grande in southwestern Texas. The Park includes almost all of the Chisos Mountains, plus more than a hundred miles of the Rio Grande itself. Elevations along the river will be close to 2,000 feet above sea level--depending upon how far upstream or downstream you happen to be. In the interior, elevations reach 7,835 at the summit of Emory Peak. This summary deals with the area along the Rio Grande, upland areas will be cooler and wetter.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:31	11:09	11:59	12:52	13:36	13:59	13:50	13:12	12:22	11:30	10:44	10:19
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:22	7:03	8:11	9:01	9:19	10:12	10:35	10:32	8:58	8:10	7:00	6:09
AREA OF BLUE SKY	51%	52%	52%	53%	51%	58%	57%	61%	58%	59%	55%	52%
LOW FOR MONTH	19°	24°	32°	41°	50°	60°	66°	65°	55°	41°	29°	24°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	33°	38°	44°	52°	62°	71°	72°	71°	66°	55°	40°	34°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	66°	73°	81°	90°	98°	103°	102°	100°	95°	87°	74°	67°
HIGH FOR MONTH	77°	84°	93°	98°	106°	110°	109°	107°	103°	94°	84°	77°
FROSTY MORNINGS	52%	29%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	45%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	4%	19%	70%	94%	97%	100%	97%	83%	39%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	42%	36%	31%	33%	36%	34%	35%	37%	42%	41%	42%	43%
DRY DAYS	86%	86%	86%	85%	83%	85%	81%	82%	80%	85%	85%	83%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	96%	95%	97%	98%	95%	93%	91%	92%	90%	93%	96%	95%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.13	0.21	0.23	0.20	0.22	0.15	0.05	0.05
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	4%	11%	20%	14%	17%	17%	12%	6%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	6%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%	6%	7%

COMMENTS: The area has a mid-latitude desert climate, with a four-season year. Look for bright sunshine on roughly 70% of the year's daylight hours. This will range from a "low" of 60% in December to a high of 80% in August. The low temperature for the year will be around 11°, and will probably occur about sunrise following a clear windless night in January. The high temperature for the year will be around 114°, and will probably occur some sunny and windless afternoon in July. Precipitation is very sparse, and extremely variable from one year to the next. Almost all of it comes from thundershower from late May through early October. Snow flurries are common enough in the cooler months, but snow on the ground is almost unheard of at this elevation. A typical summer afternoon will be very sunny, arid, and over 100°. Sensible temperatures will be a few degrees higher. Summer nights are warm. A typical winter afternoon will be sunny, moderately arid, and mild. Half the winter nights will drop below freezing.