

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO GRAND STAIRCASE - ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT, UTAH

LOCATION: The Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument is located in south-central Utah. It is situated north of Lake Powell, east of Bryce Canyon National Park, west of Capitol Reef National Park, and south of the town of Escalante. Escalante is situated on the banks of the Escalante River in the "slot canyon" country of the region known as the High Plateaus. To the north, the lake-dotted Aquarius Plateau rises to more than 10,000 feet. To the south, the "grand staircase" of the Kaiparowits Plateau steps down to Lake Powell. Escalante's elevation is some 5,800 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:53	10:47	11:56	13:09	14:12	14:44	14:31	13:38	12:29	11:16	10:12	9:37
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	6:32	7:31	8:41	10:10	11:32	12:40	11:23	10:42	10:22	8:55	7:16	6:16
AREA OF BLUE SKY	44%	44%	45%	50%	58%	68%	60%	62%	69%	64%	54%	47%
LOW FOR MONTH	-5°	-1°	13°	21°	31°	37°	46°	42°	30°	22°	10°	-2°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	13°	19°	25°	32°	39°	46°	54°	52°	44°	34°	24°	16°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	40°	45°	54°	63°	72°	83°	88°	85°	78°	67°	53°	42°
HIGH FOR MONTH	54°	58°	67°	74°	82°	93°	95°	93°	87°	77°	66°	56°
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	96%	87%	53%	13%	0%	0%	0%	3%	32%	87%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	23%	58%	32%	7%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	52%	44%	36%	28%	24%	19%	25%	28%	27%	31%	43%	52%
DRY DAYS	81%	78%	81%	84%	84%	90%	78%	69%	83%	84%	85%	82%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	93%	93%	96%	93%	96%	90%	86%	93%	93%	93%	93%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.22	0.30	0.18	0.17	0.12	0.15
LIKELY SNOWFALL	9.0"	4.7"	4.2"	0.8"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	2.9"	7.4"
SNOWY DAYS	17%	13%	8%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	15%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	1%	2%	5%	11%	11%	34%	35%	15%	5%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	9%	6%	5%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	4%	7%

COMMENTS: The area has a high desert version of the mid-latitude four-season year. Bright sunshine occurs on 76% of the year's daylight hours, ranging from a "low" of 65% in December to a high of 86% in June. The low temperature for the year will be near -19° some windless winter sunrise on a high plateau, while the high will be around 109° some sunny summer afternoon in the canyons. Precipitation is very light, and highly variable from year to year. The higher elevations will get substantially more than the lowlands. A typical summer afternoon in Escalante will be very sunny, very arid, and quite hot. July and August will feature afternoon thunderstorms--some of which actually bring rain. Summer nights are cool along towards morning. A typical winter afternoon will be sunny, moderately humid, and cold--even colder in the high country. A dozen winter afternoons will never warm above freezing.