

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BECKLEY AND THE NEW RIVER GORGE, WEST VIRGINIA

LOCATION: Beckley is located in southwestern West Virginia. The town is situated on a plateau in an area cut by steep river valleys. A few miles to the east of Beckley, the New River (one of the oldest rivers in North America) cuts a deep and scenic gorge. This stretch of the New River, from near Hinton downstream (north) to near Fayetteville is a National Scenic River. There is also the Bluestone National Scenic River near Pipestem. Elevations range from a bit above 600 feet above sea level in the New River valley to well above 3,000 feet high in the surrounding mountains.

	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	10:11	9:37
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:32	4:01	5:03	6:15	7:16	7:25	7:43	6:56	6:33	6:08	4:25	3:21
AREA OF BLUE SKY	22%	24%	25%	29%	29%	28%	31%	32%	35%	41%	30%	25%
LOW FOR MONTH	-2°	1°	12°	23°	33°	42°	49°	47°	37°	26°	15°	4°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	23°	24°	31°	39°	48°	56°	60°	58°	52°	41°	32°	25°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	42°	44°	52°	63°	72°	78°	81°	80°	75°	66°	54°	46°
HIGH FOR MONTH	60°	63°	72°	80°	83°	86°	88°	87°	84°	77°	70°	63°
FROSTY MORNINGS	81%	78%	53%	23%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%	17%	46%	72%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	62%	58%	52%	47%	52%	57%	60%	61%	60%	53%	56%	62%
DRY DAYS	58%	59%	61%	63%	66%	66%	67%	70%	73%	77%	70%	62%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	76%	74%	75%	74%	76%	73%	79%	80%	82%	78%	77%
DRY HOURS	66%	68%	74%	83%	87%	92%	93%	93%	90%	88%	80%	71%
LIKELY SNOWFALL	12.5"	12.4"	4.2"	2.6"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.8"	3.8"	9.5"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	34%	35%	16%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	12%	25%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	2%	6%	12%	20%	28%	32%	23%	11%	3%	2%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	14%	13%	12%	8%	10%	14%	16%	18%	19%	12%	11%	11%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 435 of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 28% in December, to a high of 54% in October. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -6°, and the highest should be near 89°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. The area has a four-season year. Summer afternoons are mostly sunny, warm as often as hot, and humid. Winter afternoons are very cloudy, chilly to cold, and humid. Two-thirds of the winter afternoons will warm to above freezing, while four or five winter nights will drop below zero. Snowfalls are variable from year to year and from place to place. At the higher elevations, snow may remain on the ground for most of the winter. Down in the valleys and in town it may only stay on the ground for a day or two after each fall.