

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO CASPER AND THE NORTH PLATTE RIVER VALLEY, WYOMING

LOCATION: Casper, Wyoming's second largest city (after Cheyenne), is located in the central part of that state. The city is situated on the banks of the North Platte River in the sagebrush-dotted high plains. Elevations are in the neighborhood of 5,300 feet above sea level, with the Bighorn Mountains to the northwest and the Laramie Mountains to the southeast. Casper was a major stop on the old Oregon Trail.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:25	10:31	11:54	13:22	14:38	15:18	15:01	13:57	12:33	11:06	9:48	9:06
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:42	6:39	7:35	8:10	8:49	10:12	10:51	9:54	8:17	7:10	5:39	5:13
AREA OF BLUE SKY	34%	34%	32%	32%	34%	48%	58%	55%	56%	48%	37%	38%
LOW FOR MONTH	-15°	-9°	-2°	-3°	27°	37°	44°	41°	28°	17°	-1°	-10°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	14°	17°	22°	30°	39°	48°	55°	53°	43°	33°	23°	17°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	34°	39°	45°	57°	67°	79°	88°	86°	75°	62°	46°	37°
HIGH FOR MONTH	50°	54°	64°	75°	84°	93°	97°	95°	90°	79°	63°	53°
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	94%	87%	61%	21%	2%	0%	0%	11%	46%	82%	91%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	41%	31%	5%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	57%	54%	46%	40%	38%	31%	25%	24%	29%	37%	51%	56%
DRY DAYS	79%	73%	70%	68%	65%	72%	77%	83%	81%	80%	78%	78%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	95%	94%	90%	87%	84%	88%	90%	94%	91%	91%	92%	95%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.09	0.12	0.18	0.29	0.37	0.24	0.17	0.12	0.16	0.17	0.14	0.10
LIKELY SNOWFALL	10.3"	10.3"	13.8"	12.5"	4.0"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	1.2"	5.6"	10.6"	10.7"
SNOWY DAYS	21%	27%	30%	24%	6%	0%	0%	0%	3%	11%	22%	22%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	5%	21%	28%	30%	22%	10%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%	2%

COMMENTS: The area has a high plains version of the mid-latitude four-season year. Bright sunshine occurs on 64% of the year's daylight hours, ranging from a "low" of 57% in December to a high of 72% in July. The low temperature for the year will be near -22° some windless winter sunrise, while the high will be around 98° some sunny summer afternoon. Precipitation is very light, and peaks in the late spring. A typical summer afternoon will be very sunny, quite arid, and hot. Low humidities and fairly steady winds make it feel about 4° cooler than the thermometer indicates. Summer nights are cool and clear. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are common, but not all of them actually bring rain. A typical winter afternoon will be sunny, moderately humid, and cold. A third of them never warm above the freezing point. Winter nights are quite cold, almost always below freezing, and occasionally below zero. Most of the winter precipitation comes as snow, but the bright sunshine and the winds keep the ground largely bare most of the winter.