

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT, ARIZONA

LOCATION: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is located right up against the Mexican border in southwestern Arizona. The landscape is one of low desert mountains and desert basins. It is typical of the Sonoran Desert, and is largely unaltered by man. Elevations at the Visitor's Center are some 1,700 feet above sea level. Winter and spring are the best seasons here, and the campground fills with the recreation vehicles of those seeking sunshine and warmth.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 10:19 | 11:02 | 11:58 | 12:57 | 13:47 | 14:13 | 14:02 | 13:20 | 12:24 | 11:26 | 10:34 | 10:07 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 8:25 | 9:16 | 10:32 | 11:59 | 13:01 | 13:30 | 11:51 | 11:27 | 11:09 | 10:17 | 9:09 | 8:08 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 62% | 63% | 64% | 74% | 79% | 84% | 64% | 67% | 78% | 78% | 72% | 63% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 26° | 29° | 34° | 40° | 42° | 55° | 63° | 61° | 56° | 44° | 34° | 28° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 38° | 40° | 43° | 49° | 55° | 64° | 74° | 72° | 66° | 56° | 44° | 38° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 67° | 71° | 75° | 83° | 91° | 99° | 103° | 101° | 98° | 88° | 76° | 69° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 78° | 83° | 87° | 93° | 101° | 107° | 110° | 108° | 106° | 92° | 85° | 79° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 19% | 11% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 13% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 0% | 1% | 3% | 22% | 61% | 90% | 98% | 98% | 90% | 53% | 3% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 37% | 37% | 30% | 26% | 22% | 19% | 32% | 39% | 32% | 33% | 36% | 46% |
| DRY DAYS | 89% | 90% | 90% | 95% | 97% | 97% | 81% | 81% | 89% | 93% | 93% | 88% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 90% | 93% | 94% | 97% | 99% | 99% | 87% | 85% | 92% | 94% | 93% | 92% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.12 | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.04 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.22 | 0.29 | 0.19 | 0.12 | 0.10 | 0.17 |
| SNOWY DAYS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| THUNDER DAYS | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 5% | 25% | 26% | 11% | 4% | 1% | 1% |
| FOGGY DAYS | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 1% |

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely to occur on 87% of the year's daylight hours. This will probably range from a low of 80% in December, to a high of 95% in June. The expected lowest temperature for the year will be around 22° on some windless winter sunrise, and the most probable highest will be near 112° on some blazing summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will generally be up to 6° cooler than actual ones—except in August, when they are substantially higher! The Monument features excellent displays of cacti and other plants typical of the Sonoran Desert. The organ-pipe cactus itself may grow to two stories high and have more than thirty arms growing from a common base--thus earning its name. Unfortunately, it blooms in May and June, when the Monument is virtually deserted because of the heat. There is a campground at the Visitor's Center which usually fills by noon on winter days. There is a motel, coffee shop, and limited supplies in Lukeville. The low humidity can make nighttime temperatures feel much colder than the thermometer shows. Desert dwellers throughout the world have sayings that recognize this. One of my favorites (from the Arabian Desert) is, "The stars make a thin blanket."