

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SANTA ANA AREA, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: The city of Santa Ana is located in the eastern part of the Los Angeles metropolitan area in southern California. The city is situated in the drainage of the Santa Ana River, in a rather broad valley. It is separated from the Pacific Ocean, some fifteen miles to the south, by the San Joaquin Hills. These hills have many passes and low spots that allow the Pacific fog and marine air to penetrate into the valley. This penetration is spotty, and leads to much local variation in sunshine, temperature, and humidity. Elevations in the valley are between 100 and 200 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:12	10:58	11:58	13:01	13:54	14:22	14:10	13:25	12:25	11:23	10:28	9:58
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:56	6:25	7:25	8:58	8:02	9:07	9:54	9:39	8:16	7:34	7:08	6:43
AREA OF BLUE SKY	47%	44%	47%	53%	47%	54%	64%	66%	60%	56%	57%	54%
LOW FOR MONTH	34 °	37 °	39 °	42 °	47 °	51 °	56 °	56 °	53 °	46 °	38 °	35 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	41 °	43 °	45 °	48 °	53 °	56 °	60 °	60 °	58 °	53 °	46 °	42 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	67 °	68 °	70 °	72 °	75 °	79 °	84 °	84 °	84 °	79 °	74 °	69 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	82 °	82 °	83 °	87 °	88 °	90 °	93 °	95 °	98 °	94 °	87 °	81 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	4%	9%	13%	21%	9%	2%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	55%	56%	56%	54%	57%	58%	56%	56%	55%	56%	55%	56%
DRY DAYS	81%	77%	79%	87%	94%	98%	99%	99%	95%	93%	89%	84%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	86%	87%	87%	94%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	93%	90%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.44	0.47	0.36	0.18	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.20	0.38
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	16%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%	12%	15%	16%	17%	16%	16%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 65% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 58% in January and again in May, to a high of 72% in sunny August. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to freezing at some clear and chilly winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 102 ° on some windless summer afternoon. Both the lowest temperatures and the highest occur under clear and windless conditions. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. The presence of the Pacific Ocean nearby dominates the weather. During the warmer spells, fog and low cloud form late at night and persist into the morning hours. This may be exacerbated by “smog” from the metropolitan areas to the west, carried on the prevailing westerlies. This fog and low cloud varies with distance from the sea, elevation, and local topography. During cooler spells, strong gravity winds, known as “Santa Anas” come down from the passes of the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. These winds both raise temperatures and drop humidity abruptly and markedly. They create a real fire hazard, and account for most of the occasional high temperatures experienced during the winter months.