

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SCOTIA AND THE LOWER EEL RIVER VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

DESCRIPTION: Scotia is located in Humboldt County in northwestern California. The town is situated on the east bank of the Eel River, some twenty-five miles upstream from its outlet into the Pacific Ocean. Elevations are around 150 feet above sea level. Scotia is one of the last “company towns” in the country, being wholly owned by (and entirely run by) the Pacific Lumber Company, the world’s largest processor of redwood lumber. A free tour of the giant redwood processing mill is worthwhile. US-101 (“the Redwood Highway”) runs through town, and goes through *Humboldt Redwoods State Park* just a few miles south of Scotia. A thirty-two mile bypass, “the Avenue of the Giants”, gives you a closer view of these giant trees.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:39	10:39	11:55	13:16	14:25	15:01	14:46	13:48	12:31	11:11	10:00	9:21
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:12	5:13	6:32	8:05	9:02	9:53	9:16	8:08	7:31	6:05	4:43	3:51
AREA OF BLUE SKY	28%	28%	29%	32%	35%	39%	41%	39%	44%	39%	31%	30%
LOW FOR MONTH	28°	29°	31°	34°	37°	42°	44°	45°	40°	35°	32°	30°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	40°	42°	42°	44°	48°	51°	53°	53°	51°	48°	44°	41°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	55°	57°	58°	60°	63°	66°	69°	70°	71°	67°	60°	56°
HIGH FOR MONTH	68°	70°	72°	75°	78°	78°	80°	83°	88°	88°	74°	67°
FROSTY MORNINGS	13%	8%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	10%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	61%	60%	56%	56%	58%	57%	57%	56%	54%	55%	59%	63%
DRY DAYS	48%	46%	48%	60%	71%	83%	94%	94%	90%	74%	53%	48%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	60%	60%	65%	77%	87%	93%	99%	97%	96%	84%	69%	61%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.41	1.34	1.05	0.56	0.27	0.11	0.01	0.04	0.10	0.48	1.09	1.46
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	12%	11%	6%	9%	7%	16%	23%	22%	23%	23%	18%	20%

CLIMATE: Bright sunshine is likely on 55% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 41% in cloudy December, to a high of 66% in relatively sunny June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 26° at some clear and calm winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 90° on some equally clear and windless summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 3° cooler than actual ones, due to the fog and damp. Wherever you find redwoods, you will almost always find fog. These enormous trees seem to thrive on it. The Eel River valley gets its share of fog, most of it coming upstream from the Pacific Ocean, but some of it forming in place during clear nights. This fog and the accompanying low cloud help to keep the area’s temperatures more moderate than they would be without it. It keeps the summers cooler and the winters warmer. A foggy day in the table is one in which—at some time of day—an object a half-mile away is invisible due to the fog. Anything more transparent than that is considered merely haze or mist. Low cloud is simply fog that has lifted a few tens or hundreds of feet, and is now fog at some higher elevation. Under these conditions, the surface is now clear of fog—though cloudy and dank. Local sunshine, temperatures, and humidity vary from site to site, depending upon how much fog and low cloud that particular site gets. This, in turn, is dependent upon distance from the sea, elevation, and peculiarities of local topography.