

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BIG SUR COAST, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: There are no official boundaries to the Big Sur Coast, since it is defined more by attitude than by geodesic survey. Some say it starts just south of Carmel and runs all the way to San Simeon, others are more restrictive. This guide deals with the stretch of coast from the California Sea Otter Refuge (south of Carmel Highlands) south to Lucia. West to east, it runs from the Pacific Ocean to the crest of the Santa Lucia Mountains. Elevations range from sea level to 5,155 feet above it at the summit of Cone Peak. The only community of any size (and it is quite tiny) is Big Sur Center.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:00	10:51	11:57	13:06	14:05	14:36	14:23	13:33	12:27	11:19	10:18	9:45
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:44	6:14	6:43	8:20	8:27	8:27	7:22	6:54	7:15	6:57	6:33	6:09
AREA OF BLUE SKY	50%	46%	44%	49%	49%	49%	46%	45%	52%	53%	54%	54%
LOW FOR MONTH	35°	37°	39°	40°	43°	46°	47°	48°	47°	44°	40°	35°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	43°	44°	45°	46°	48°	50°	51°	52°	52°	51°	47°	45°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	59°	60°	61°	61°	63°	65°	66°	67°	69°	68°	65°	61°
HIGH FOR MONTH	70°	72°	71°	75°	76°	78°	78°	77°	84°	83°	77°	72°
FROSTY MORNINGS	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	66%	65%	62%	64%	65%	67%	68%	67%	65%	62%	62%
NEARBY WATERS	53°	53°	52°	52°	51°	53°	53°	54°	56°	55°	55°	53°
DRY DAYS	69%	69%	68%	79%	89%	93%	95%	94%	92%	87%	75%	72%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	63%	66%	74%	86%	95%	97%	99%	99%	97%	92%	81%	70%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.40	1.32	0.94	0.53	0.14	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.30	0.73	1.31
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	11%	14%	14%	23%	29%	46%	54%	51%	49%	39%	17%	12%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely to occur on 59% of the year's daylight hours. This will probably range from a low of 51% in foggy July and August, to a high of 64% in November. The expected lowest temperature for the year will be around freezing on some windless cool-season sunrise, and the most probable highest will be near 89° on some sunny September or October afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will generally be about 3° cooler than actual ones. Summer is the prime fog season. The fog banks form offshore, where they lurk during the "heat" (such as it is) of the day. As the afternoon cools, the fog begins to send tendrils onshore. These thicken and grow denser until—by late afternoon—the coast is usually pretty well zonked in by fog. It remains during the night, and does not burn off until late in the morning.