

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SANTA CRUZ RESORT AREA, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Santa Cruz is located on the central Pacific Coast of California, some sixty miles south of San Francisco and some forty miles north of Monterey. The resort and university community is situated on the northern cup of Monterey Bay, and is backed by the redwoods-dotted Santa Cruz Mountains. Elevations in town are close to sea level, but rise to some several thousand feet higher back in the mountains. Santa Cruz has redwoods, some excellent beaches, and a delightfully old-fashioned boardwalk amusement park. The town is very popular with San Franciscans on the weekends and holidays.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:57	10:49	11:57	13:08	14:08	14:40	14:27	13:35	12:28	11:17	10:15	9:41
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:30	6:07	6:49	8:23	8:53	9:15	8:30	7:47	7:46	7:07	6:27	5:48
AREA OF BLUE SKY	48%	44%	44%	49%	51%	52%	51%	49%	55%	54%	52%	52%
LOW FOR MONTH	29°	31°	35°	36°	38°	41°	43°	45°	42°	37°	34°	31°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	38°	40°	41°	43°	45°	48°	50°	50°	49°	46°	41°	38°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	60°	62°	65°	68°	71°	74°	75°	75°	77°	73°	67°	61°
HIGH FOR MONTH	71°	74°	77°	81°	84°	90°	90°	92°	92°	88°	80°	74°
FROSTY MORNINGS	19%	12%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	11%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%	2%	3%	8%	5%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	64%	63%	59%	60%	61%	64%	64%	63%	62%	62%	63%
NEARBY WATERS	53°	53°	54°	54°	55°	57°	59°	60°	60°	59°	56°	54°
DRY DAYS	68%	71%	74%	90%	94%	97%	99%	99%	93%	94%	87%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	73%	73%	79%	87%	95%	98%	99%	99%	98%	92%	85%	79%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.99	0.90	0.64	0.35	0.14	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.07	0.22	0.49	0.87
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	2%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%
FOGGY DAYS	13%	14%	10%	15%	20%	31%	38%	35%	34%	29%	16%	15%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 61% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 55% in January, to a high of 64% in April. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 25°, and the highest should be near 100°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. Coastal fogs are common during the summer months, and account for almost all of the reduced sunshine during that season. These fogs usually burn off by noon, but return in the late afternoon and early evening. The presence of redwoods in the hills behind the city is a giveaway clue. These giant trees thrive in the damp and mist, and are rarely found outside of foggy areas. The Giant Dipper roller-coaster at the boardwalk was built in 1924, and is one of the last and best of the old "woodies".