

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

LOCATION: Joshua Tree National Park is located in the desert country of south-central California. The Park lies to the east of Palm Springs, south of Twenty-Nine Palms, and north of Indio. Within the Park are portions of both the high Mojave Desert and the lower Sonoran Desert. The data in this summary are most relevant to the higher Mojave section, far and away the most popular part of the Park. Elevations range from about 1,400 feet at the southern edge to 5,185 feet at the summit of the Little San Bernardino Mountains in the southwestern portion of the Park.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:10	10:57	11:57	13:01	13:56	14:24	14:12	13:26	12:26	11:22	10:26	9:56
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:11	9:08	10:21	11:51	12:51	13:42	12:42	12:02	11:27	10:13	8:50	7:58
AREA OF BLUE SKY	62%	62%	64%	72%	76%	85%	76%	77%	83%	78%	70%	64%
LOW FOR MONTH	23°	27°	31°	38°	44°	53°	62°	60°	53°	40°	30°	24°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	35°	38°	42°	50°	57°	65°	72°	70°	64°	53°	42°	36°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	62°	67°	73°	82°	90°	100°	105°	103°	97°	86°	72°	63°
HIGH FOR MONTH	74°	80°	86°	95°	102°	111°	112°	110°	107°	98°	84°	75°
FROSTY MORNINGS	36%	17%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	32%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	2%	19%	59%	92%	100%	99%	87%	37%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	30%	26%	21%	18%	16%	14%	20%	24%	22%	22%	26%	32%
DRY DAYS	92%	94%	93%	96%	97%	99%	94%	92%	96%	96%	95%	93%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	98%	97%	99%	99%	99%	96%	95%	97%	98%	97%	97%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.07
SNOWY DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	3%	8%	9%	6%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely to occur on 88% of the year's daylight hours. This will probably range from a "low" of 80% in December and January, to a high of 95% in June. The expected lowest temperature for the year will be around 21° on some windless winter sunrise, and the most probable highest will be near 113° on some scorching summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will generally be 4° to 9° cooler than actual ones. The Park has a desert variation of the standard mid-latitude four-season year. Snow flurries do occur from time to time, but snow on the face of the desert is rare and leads to excellent photographs. Spring and autumn are seasons of transition. These transitional periods produce the most comfortable temperatures, and hence bring the best weather. The Joshua Tree blooms between March and June, as do many other desert plants. Other times of year, however, feature other blooms and the desert will almost always display some type of blossom.