

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE TOPEKA AREA, KANSAS

LOCATION: Topeka, the capital of Kansas, is located in the northeastern quarter of that state. The city straddles the Kansas River, and lies almost completely within its floodplain. The valley bottom is some three miles wide, with the prairie uplands rising roughly 250 feet above the valley bottom. Elevations in town are close to 900 feet above sea level. The city was the birthplace and remains the headquarters of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe railroad (the significance of this will completely escape those under fifty years of age).

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:46	10:43	11:56	13:12	14:18	14:52	14:38	13:42	12:30	11:13	10:06	9:30
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:32	6:03	6:56	7:44	8:52	9:58	10:45	9:47	8:13	7:10	5:48	4:53
AREA OF BLUE SKY	45%	43%	42%	43%	42%	48%	56%	55%	54%	55%	47%	43%
LOW FOR MONTH	-3°	2°	12°	27°	38°	50°	56°	53°	39°	28°	15°	3°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	19°	23°	32°	44°	54°	63°	68°	66°	57°	46°	33°	23°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	38°	43°	54°	66°	75°	85°	90°	88°	81°	70°	54°	42°
HIGH FOR MONTH	62°	68°	79°	87°	90°	97°	101°	101°	96°	87°	75°	64°
FROSTY MORNINGS	89%	80%	50%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	46%	80%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	28%	51%	44%	21%	3%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	61%	59%	53%	50%	54%	56%	54%	54%	52%	50%	55%	61%
DRY DAYS	81%	78%	73%	67%	62%	64%	73%	72%	74%	78%	80%	80%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	90%	85%	82%	75%	77%	80%	82%	83%	86%	89%	90%
WET DAY PRECIPITATION	0.47	0.50	0.62	0.67	0.78	0.83	0.95	0.99	1.00	0.95	0.75	0.59
LIKELY SNOWFALL	4.8"	4.7"	3.9"	0.7"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.2"	1.2"	4.4"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	14%	12%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	10%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	3%	7%	17%	27%	31%	27%	26%	20%	10%	4%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	7%	5%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	4%	4%	7%

COMMENTS: : Bright sunshine is likely on 62% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 51% in December, to a high of 73% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -7°, and the highest should be near 103°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty close to or a touch below actual ones. Most of the area's precipitation comes as summer thundershowers—mostly during the nighttime and early morning hours. Tornadoes do occur in the area—mostly in the spring. Your chances of actually encountering one of these dramatic storms, however, are much less than your chances of winning the lottery. During the winter months, only about one day in four will remain below freezing all day long. The others can be fairly pleasant—if a bit nippy.