

# SUNSHINE GUIDE TO AZTEC RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO

LOCATION: Aztec Ruins National Monument is located in the northwest corner of New Mexico, just outside the small town of Aztec. The Monument is situated in the Colorado Plateau country, at an elevation of some 5,650 feet above sea level. Despite covering only 27 acres, the ruin is well worth a visit. It is far less crowded than Mesa Verde. The ruins are all that is left of a rather large (more than 500 rooms) Anasazi town built between 1100 and 1300 A. D.. A major attraction is the largest restored *kiva* in the world. There is a Visitor's Center and a picnic area. The Monument has day-use only. Meals and accommodations are available in Aztec and in Farmington, some fourteen miles to the southwest.

|                        | JAN  | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUN   | JUL   | AUG   | SEP   | OCT   | NOV   | DEC  |
|------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT      | 9:57 | 10:49 | 11:57 | 13:07 | 14:07 | 14:39 | 14:26 | 13:35 | 12:28 | 11:17 | 10:15 | 9:42 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE      | 6:26 | 7:07  | 7:54  | 9:00  | 9:59  | 11:18 | 10:17 | 9:37  | 9:29  | 8:23  | 7:08  | 6:20 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY       | 50%  | 48%   | 48%   | 49%   | 51%   | 63%   | 54%   | 56%   | 64%   | 63%   | 57%   | 53%  |
| LOW FOR MONTH          | -5 ° | -1 °  | 12 °  | 20 °  | 27 °  | 37 °  | 48 °  | 46 °  | 36 °  | 23 °  | 8 °   | -2 ° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE    | 15 ° | 20 °  | 25 °  | 32 °  | 40 °  | 48 °  | 57 °  | 55 °  | 47 °  | 36 °  | 23 °  | 16 ° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE  | 43 ° | 49 °  | 58 °  | 68 °  | 77 °  | 87 °  | 92 °  | 89 °  | 82 °  | 71 °  | 55 °  | 44 ° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH         | 56 ° | 63 °  | 70 °  | 79 °  | 87 °  | 95 °  | 98 °  | 96 °  | 90 °  | 82 °  | 69 °  | 57 ° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS        | 97%  | 93%   | 73%   | 36%   | 5%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 19%   | 79%   | 94%  |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °   | 0%   | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 4%    | 51%   | 81%   | 52%   | 16%   | 0%    | 0%    | 0%   |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY     | 59%  | 48%   | 36%   | 27%   | 25%   | 21%   | 28%   | 31%   | 30%   | 34%   | 46%   | 58%  |
| DRY DAYS               | 84%  | 82%   | 84%   | 85%   | 89%   | 92%   | 84%   | 80%   | 85%   | 85%   | 88%   | 85%  |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS    | 92%  | 92%   | 94%   | 93%   | 96%   | 97%   | 90%   | 90%   | 93%   | 90%   | 93%   | 94%  |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION    | 0.13 | 0.12  | 0.12  | 0.10  | 0.09  | 0.07  | 0.16  | 0.19  | 0.16  | 0.18  | 0.10  | 0.12 |
| LIKELY SNOWFALL        | 5.7" | 4.5"  | 2.2"  | 0.5"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.1"  | 1.9"  | 5.7" |
| DAYS WITH SOME SNOW    | 12%  | 12%   | 5%    | 1%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 4%    | 11%  |
| DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER | 0%   | 1%    | 2%    | 6%    | 16%   | 17%   | 36%   | 36%   | 17%   | 5%    | 1%    | 1%   |
| DAYS WITH SOME FOG     | 7%   | 5%    | 3%    | 1%    | 1%    | 0%    | 1%    | 1%    | 1%    | 1%    | 3%    | 6%   |

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 70% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a "low" of 65% in December and January, to a high of 77% in June and September. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -8° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 100° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones, due to the low humidity. Summers are hot to very hot and winters are cold to very cold. Both seasons are sunny and dry. Summer thunderstorms bring most of the rain. The best weather comes in May and June, then again in September and early October.