

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK, NEW MEXICO

LOCATION: Carlsbad Caverns National Park is located in the southeastern corner of New Mexico, only a few miles from the border with Texas. The Park is situated on the eastern flank of the Guadalupe Mountains, at an elevation of some 4,500 feet above sea level. There are no accommodations in the Park, and no overnight camping is allowed. There is a lunch-room underground and a restaurant at the Visitor's Center. Accommodation may be found at White's City and at the town of Carlsbad. Pets are not permitted underground. There are kennels (fee) at the Visitor's Center.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:18	11:02	11:58	12:57	13:48	14:14	14:03	13:20	12:24	11:25	10:33	10:06
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:27	8:16	9:23	10:33	11:11	11:52	10:50	10:07	9:26	8:54	8:01	7:09
AREA OF BLUE SKY	58%	59%	60%	64%	64%	69%	59%	60%	65%	68%	65%	60%
LOW FOR MONTH	16°	17°	22°	32°	43°	54°	58°	58°	49°	39°	25°	20°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	34°	36°	41°	50°	57°	65°	67°	66°	61°	53°	42°	36°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	57°	61°	67°	76°	84°	91°	91°	90°	84°	75°	65°	59°
HIGH FOR MONTH	72°	75°	80°	88°	95°	101°	99°	98°	94°	86°	80°	74°
FROSTY MORNINGS	51%	33%	10%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	17%	47%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	5%	29%	63%	68%	62%	33%	15%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	38%	32%	25%	21%	23%	24%	32%	35%	36%	35%	36%	41%
DRY DAYS	90%	89%	92%	90%	82%	80%	77%	77%	80%	84%	90%	89%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	96%	96%	97%	95%	91%	90%	88%	88%	88%	91%	95%	96%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.12	0.22	0.23	0.32	0.35	0.46	0.25	0.07	0.08
LIKELY SNOWFALL	2.4"	1.1"	0.7"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	1.1"	2.0"
SNOWY DAYS	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	4%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	3%	10%	21%	29%	37%	29%	15%	8%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	3%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 77% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 71% in December, to a high of 83% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 10°, and the highest should be near 102°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 5° cooler than actual ones. The caves remain a cool 56°F/13°C all year around. The combination of temperature, humidity, and absence of sunshine makes a sweater or a light jacket almost a necessity for comfort. Sturdy, flat-soled, rubber-soled footwear are highly recommended. The Blue Tour takes about three hours, and covers some three miles. The Red Tour takes about an hour and a half, and covers a bit over a mile. Both tours are strenuous. Carlsbad Caverns is one of the largest cave complexes in the world. Its limits have never been fully explored. Many visitors feel that the nightly bat flight is the highlight of the Park's offerings. These flights can be seen at dusk and dawn from April through October. The bats winter in Mexico.