

Climate



Canadian-born economist John Kenneth Galbraith once wrote, “The fortunate people of the planet are those who live by the seasons. There is far more difference between a Vermont farm in the summer and that farm in the winter than there is between San Diego and São Paulo. This means that people who live where the seasons are good and strong have no need to travel; they can stay at home and let change come to them. This simple truth will one day be recognized and then we will see a great reverse migration from Florida to Maine and on into Quebec.”

That extraordinary prediction might cause many a lacquered Sun Belt real estate saleswoman to put down her cellphone and say, “Huh?” She can relax. Demographers forecast that the march to the sun will continue well into the 21st century.

What else is new? Most of us say we prefer a mild, sunny climate. When asked where in the country these climates are, we point to the lower half of the Pacific Coast, the Desert Southwest, Florida, and anywhere along the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Sure enough, this area between 25 and 35 degrees latitude has been drawing older adults for decades.

But other places above the Sun Belt and hundreds of miles from beaches are drawing older adults. Many of these locations see mild climates, too. The names of some may surprise you.

What always surprises is the variety of global climates found right here at home. Northern maritime, mild Mediterranean, southerly mountain, desert, tropical “paradise,” desert highland, rugged northern continental, windward slope, leeward slope, and humid subtropical climates—name it and you’ll meet up with it somewhere in the United States.

Climate can’t be bought, built, remodeled, or relocated. A place’s climate is there for keeps, and the weather events that make up its climate—rain, snow, heat, cold, drought, wind—will have a profound effect on the rest of your life.

KEEP THESE SIMPLE FACTORS IN MIND

If you can live anywhere you wish and are open to all the variety this country offers, recognize that a combination of water, latitude and longitude, elevation, prevailing winds, mountains, and urban development lies behind any area’s climate.



If You Can, Choose Water

A waterfront location—even one with just a water view—doesn't come cheap. As Will Rogers once said, "They aren't making any more of it." Water, particularly an ocean, takes the edge off temperature. It warms up slowly, holds the heat, and cools more slowly. Places on the water tend to be cooler in summer and warmer in winter than other places inland. The hottest it gets in July on the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles is 75°F; meanwhile, 15 miles north in the San Fernando Valley, it's 95°F. Golfers in Boston's western suburbs must store their clubs during the cold-weather months from Thanksgiving to the onset of spring. Golfers 45 miles southeast on Cape Cod, with the Gulf Stream flowing by the beaches, can play almost all year-round.

Don't Move Centrally & Northerly

Over the past 200 years, America's center of population has shifted westward some 1,000 miles from Chestertown, Maryland, to near the college town of Rolla, Missouri. Alas, places located in the heartland see wide swings of temperature. Continental climates tend to be even harsher the higher the latitude. The closer to the North Pole you get, the more exaggerated are the seasonal shifts because polar and very northerly locations undergo the greatest seasonal variation in the amount and intensity of sunlight.

In Alaska's Palmer–Wasilla area, for example, *Retirement Places Rated's* northernmost spot, a December day is only 5 hours long, overcast with occasional snow. In late June the day has lengthened to 18 hours, the sun's heat is intense, 50-pound cabbages show up in roadside markets, and golfers can play until midnight.

Far to the southwest, at this book's southernmost location, the solar energy pouring over the island of Hawaii (20.52 N) in June is double what it is in December, but in Palmer–Wasilla (61.36 N) it is 20 times as great. Places in the north and far north, then, experience Siberian winters and short, sunlit summers as well.

High Is Cooler

Though some medical studies show reduced odds of heart disease and cancer the higher one lives above sea level, a higher elevation can have the same negative

effect on comfort as higher latitude. Each 1,000 feet above sea level lowers a thermometer reading by 3.3 degrees. In New Mexico, there are just 3 degrees difference in annual average temperature between Clayton and Lordsburg, two places with similar elevations. But Clayton is on the edge of the plains while Lordsburg is 440 miles southwest in high desert. However, at two weather stations just 15 miles apart but differing in elevation by 4,700 feet, the average annual temperatures vary by 16 degrees.

Something in the Wind

To understand how prevailing winds influence climate, consider a pair of places 3,200 miles apart: Bellingham, Washington, and Bar Harbor, Maine. On their respective coasts, both sit high in northern latitudes and both peek through some of the foggiest mornings in the United States. You'd naturally suppose the two have similar climates. But Bellingham is milder because it is

CLIMATE IN BRIEF

Chambers of commerce and retirement guidebooks that quote annual average temperatures are misleading. By this measure, San Diego, California, and Oxford, Mississippi, are identical at 60°F.

Beware of promoters highlighting winter temperatures but excluding summer temperatures *adjusted upward by humidity*. One out of three places profiled in this book has a July humidex (air temperature heightened by relative humidity) topping 100°F. And the dry Desert Southwest isn't immune: The humidex in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, is 123°F; in Palm Springs, California, it's 118°F; and in Scottsdale, Arizona, it's 115°F.

Consider the psychological impact, or *seasonal affect*, of differing climates. Locations in the Pacific Northwest and North Woods regions see cloudy skies 3 out of 4 days in the year. Wet days are strongly associated with cloudiness. High latitudes mean much earlier winter darkness. And don't discount periodic hazards such as Rocky Mountain snows, Florida afternoon thunderstorms, Ozark ice storms, California coastal sea fogs, and low strati. They're nearly everywhere.

If a mild climate is most important to you, think about living in two places—June to October in State College, Pennsylvania, for example, and November to May in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Or rotate Yuma, Arizona, winters with Montrose, Colorado, summers. The costs of living in two inexpensive places are still less than the costs in year-round paradise climates of coastal Southern California and Hawaii. But there's a less obvious benefit: You have alternating senses of place and sets of friendships.



a landfall for air that has moved thousands of miles over the Pacific. Far inland in Washington State, even Wenatchee and Spokane feel the beneficial effects of the Pacific winds. Interior cities in the East, however, experience few consequences of the Atlantic save on rare occasions when the prevailing wind direction turns. Alas, this reversal often means a storm.

Choose the Right Slope

The only barriers big enough to deflect and channel winds, rain, and snow are mountains. Mountain people aren't relating folk tales when they tell visitors that the weather on one side of a mountain range is radically different from that on the other. In winter, the Great Divide shields Divide-Cripple Creek, Colorado, from much of the Arctic air that moves down the continent. In summer, the windward side of the location's mountain setting is a lush, evergreen parkland at lower elevations; some 30 miles east, a semiarid steppe descends to dry, shortgrass prairie.

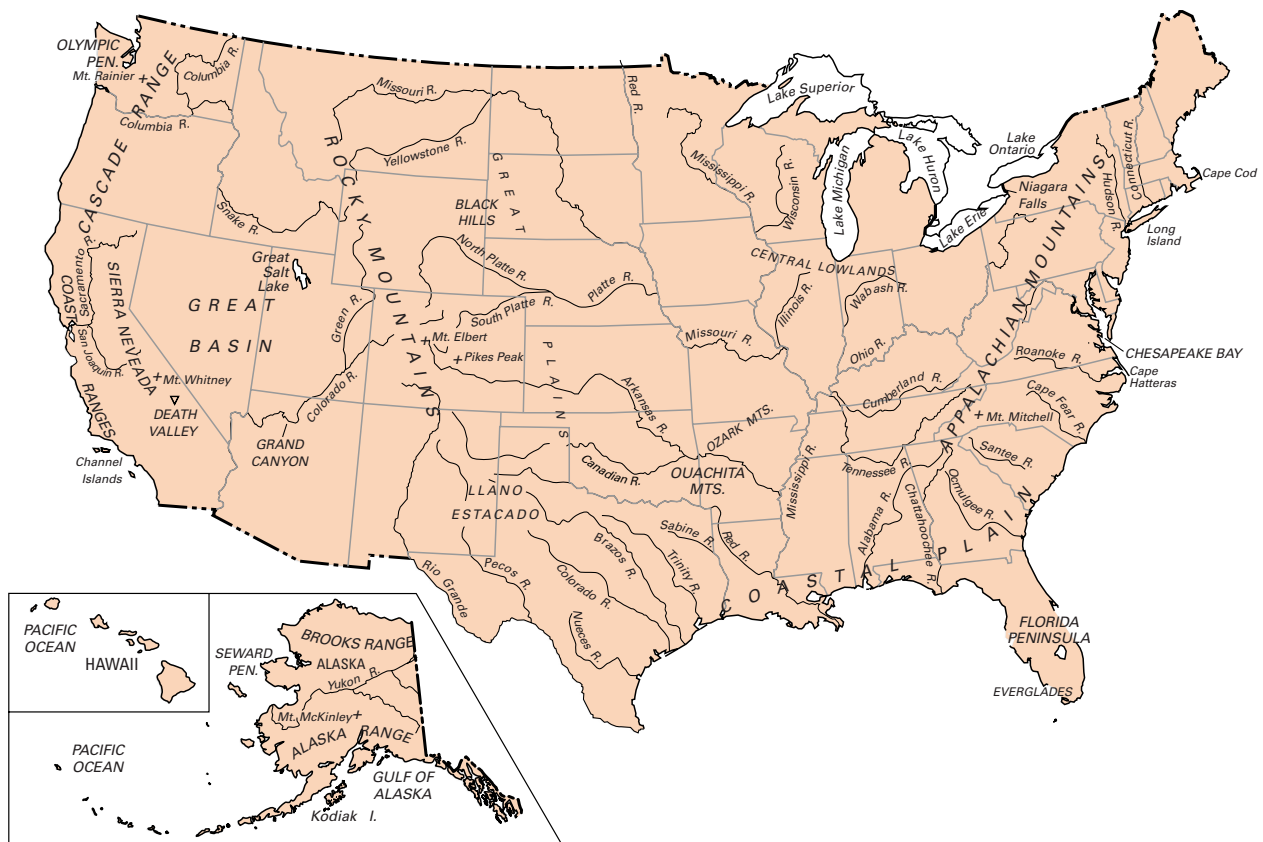
Downtown Is Hot

Finally, urban development makes heat islands within the surrounding countryside. Downtown Scottsdale, Arizona, has night temperatures 8 degrees warmer than they were 60 years ago when the area was a 1-square-mile farming cluster with 2,000 people. Population here has increased 100-fold, concrete and asphalt store the sun's radiant energy better than desert sand ever did, and automobile pollution is trapped overhead in a high-pressure cell. Wind speed, visibility, sunshine, and heating needs are less in the center of cities than in nearby country, but temperature, cloudiness, thunderstorm frequency, and air pollution levels are higher.

CLIMATE REGIONS

Mountains indeed mark the climate regions of the United States. The Pacific Coast is mild and the northern portion of the Great Plains is rigorous. The Great Basin between the Cascade and Sierra Nevada ranges to the west and the Rocky Mountains to the east is dry.

CLIMATE REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES





Some of the best climates for variety and mildness are found in the southern part of this area. The southern part of the Appalachian Mountains, too, offers mild and variable climates.

Millions of Americans live in the Great Plains and Central Lowlands, ironically the least comfortable region. If you live in the northern part, you're hit by severe winters and hot, humid summers with springs and autumns that are all too short. If you live in the southern part, winters are milder, springs and autumns are longer, but the summer air hits you in the face like a warm, wet towel.

The climate of the East Coast is like the Central Lowlands, but milder and somewhat damper. On the coast, winters are milder and summers are noticeably cooler. Retirement places with excellent climates are here, especially New Jersey's Cape May and Ocean counties, Ocean City in Maryland, and Rehoboth Bay–Indian River Bay in southern Delaware.

The high country that includes the Rockies, the Cascades, the Sierra Nevadas, and the northern half of the Appalachians is home to resort areas, thanks to the cool, crisp, sunny summers with cold nights and winters that produce snow for outdoor sports. Several places in the valleys are popular with older adults who prefer a stimulating yet not too mild climate.

Hawaii is the only state situated in the tropical zone, officially defined as any area where temperatures don't drop below 64°F. These islands experience small temperature changes, with summer averaging only 4 to 8 degrees higher than winter. Moisture-bearing trade winds from over the Pacific provide a system of natural ventilation for the heat associated with these tropical climates.

SO, WHAT'S COMFORTABLE?

Mop the sweat from pulling a balky lawnmower's starter cord a dozen times on a July afternoon, hack away at the ice on the car's windshield one morning in January, or look out the window on a sodden and gray day and you're forgiven for fantasizing about a place where it's never hot or cold and always bright.

It is a fantasy, indeed. Not only would you likely get bored with an endless sequence of identically dry sunny days with tepid temperatures, but you'd also find that none of the places profiled in *Retirement Places Rated* have climates that match this pattern 365 days a year.

SNOWY PLACES

Most locations profiled in these pages see less than 6 inches of snow, and 40 places experience less than a trace. But other places get a bit more than that. Below are 15 places that receive more than 6 feet in a normal year:

PLACE	ANNUAL SNOWFALL
Palmer–Wasilla, AK	130 inches
Pagosa Springs, CO	116
Flagstaff, AZ	100
Leelanau Peninsula, MI	98
Woodstock, VT	89
Sandpoint–Lake Pend Oreille, ID	89
Traverse City, MI	88
Petoskey–Harbor Springs, MI	88
Jackson Hole, WY	87
McCall, ID	86
St. Jay–Northeast Kingdom, VT	86
Lake Placid, NY	86
Driggs, ID	80
Burlington, VT	77
Hanover, NH	77
Retirement Places Average	22

Source: NOAA, *Climatology of the United States*

Temperature

Beware of chamber of commerce blandishments about a place's annual average temperature. San Francisco's is 57°F. So is St. Louis's. But San Francisco enjoys both a diurnal (24-hour) temperature range of 12 degrees and an annual range (the difference between January's and July's average temperatures) of 12 degrees. St. Louis has a diurnal range of 17 degrees and an annual range of 47 degrees. The temperature swings in these two cities highlight the difference between a marine climate and a continental climate. San Francisco's climate is somewhat cool and remarkably stable year-round. St. Louis's is neither.

Among retirement regions, the greatest annual temperature ranges (up to 77 degrees) are found in the North Woods, the Rocky Mountains, and northern parts of New England. The greatest diurnal temperature swings (up to 40 degrees) are in high desert parts of the Rio Grande and Desert Southwest regions. The smallest diurnal and annual temperature swings are in Hawaii and along the Pacific Coast.



CLOUDY PLACES

A day is *clear* if clouds form less than 30 percent of the daytime sky, *partly cloudy* if they form 40 to 70 percent of it, and *cloudy* if they form more than 80 percent. Some popular spots see cloudiness 2 of every 3 of their days.

PLACE	ANNUAL CLOUDY DAYS
Palmer–Wasilla, AK	240
Newport–Lincoln City, OR	238
Anacortes, WA	231
Bellingham, WA	231
San Juan Islands, WA	231
Port Townsend, WA	230
Port Angeles–Sequim, WA	229
Whidbey Island, WA	228
Long Beach Peninsula, WA	223
Kalispell–Flathead Valley, MT	213
Petoskey–Harbor Springs, MI	210
Traverse City, MI	210
Hamilton–Bitterroot Valley, MT	208
Burlington, VT	206
Leelanau Peninsula, MI	206
Retirement Places Average	141

Source: NOAA, Local Climatological Data. Some of the above figures come from the nearest “first order” station.

DRY PLACES

In some locations with low humidity, it's cheaper and more efficient to cool interiors with roof-mounted evaporative air conditioners, locally called “swamp coolers,” rather than the more expensive refrigerated air conditioners.

PLACE	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Henderson, NV	24%
Pahrump Valley, NV	24%
St. George–Zion, UT	24%
Tucson, AZ	30%
Wickenburg, AZ	31%
Kingman, AZ	32%
Lake Havasu City, AZ	32%
Palm Springs–Coachella Valley, CA	32%
Scottsdale, AZ	32%
Victorville–Apple Valley, CA	32%
Yuma, AZ	32%
Alamogordo, NM	33%
Alpine–Big Bend, TX	33%
Cottonwood–Verde Valley, AZ	33%
Las Cruces, NM	33%
Retirement Places Average	56%

Source: NOAA, Local Climatological Data. Some of the above figures come from the nearest “first order” station.

Humidity

After air temperature, humidity is the major factor in climatic comfort. Anyone who has sweated out a hot, humid summer knows humidity heightens heat. In hot, humid climates, heat is retained in the damp air even after the sunset, resulting in nights that are almost as hot as the days. (See the “Heat Index” chart below.)

Wind Chill

Wind chill (air temperature reduced by wind, derived according to newly revised National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration standards—see the “Wind Chill” chart below) is the same thing as heat loss. Anyone who has turned their face away from a stiff winter blow swears to this. When the wind rises over 5 miles per hour and the thermometer reads 45°F or less, you'll start to feel temperatures on exposed skin colder than still air.

Approaching a Climatic Ideal

Is searching for the ideal year-round retirement climate an illusion, like the quest for perfect health, an honest man, or the Holy Grail?

Perhaps it is. More than 100 years ago, the Santa Fe Railroad's *Healthseeker* guidebook advised newcomers to Arizona to winter in Phoenix but head north to Flagstaff's 7,000-foot elevation for the summer. Thousands still take that advice, and many bypass Flagstaff for a place farther north in the Idaho panhandle, or in the Rocky Mountain regions of Utah or Colorado.

In Florida, thousands of retired persons vacate the Sunshine State's buggy summers for a cottage on the Jersey Shore, the New England coast, or a cabin in the southern Appalachians. Still others, absolutely bored by the unvarying paradise-like climate in the Virgin Islands or Hawaii, head back to the mainland for a fix of four-season weather.



Heat Index

AIR TEMPERATURE (°F)	APPARENT TEMPERATURE (°F)																			
	110	99	102	105	108	112	117	123	130	137	143	150								
	105	95	97	100	102	105	109	113	118	123	129	135	142	149						
	100	91	93	95	97	99	101	104	107	110	115	120	126	132	138	144				
	95	87	88	90	91	93	94	96	98	101	104	107	110	114	119	124	130	136		
	90	83	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	93	95	96	98	100	102	106	109	113	117	122
	85	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	95	97	99	102
	80	73	74	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	81	81	82	83	85	86	86	87	88
	75	69	69	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	77	78	78	79
	70	64	64	65	65	66	66	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	70	70	71	71	71
	0%	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%	75%	80%	85%	90%	
RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)																				

Wind Chill

WIND SPEED (MPH)	APPARENT TEMPERATURE (°F)																	
	60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66
5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	
	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	
AIR TEMPERATURE (°F)																		

This migration isn't exclusively American. Older adults from northern Europe who live in Spain, southern Italy, Greece, or North Africa routinely pack up and return to their native country for a summer climate that's milder than the one on the Mediterranean coast.

Having acknowledged all this, it is still possible to rate places that approach a climatic ideal by pointing to conditions that detract from maximum comfort.

JUDGING: CLIMATE

Mild doesn't mean a winterless, perpetually Mediterranean climate. It is simply the absence of great variations or extremes of temperature. As we get older, we tend to be better off in comfortable, stable weather conditions than we are in climates that make large physiological demands and where radical weather changes come on quickly.

WINTER MILDNESS

To measure how mild the winters are, *Retirement Places Rated* takes into account the wind chill, the

number of days the temperature falls to 32°F or lower, and the average 24-hour temperature for the coldest month. Santa Barbara, California, has the highest figure for these months, resulting in a winter mildness score of 100. Nelson County, Virginia, and Pahrump Valley, Nevada, each hit the middle with a 50 score, meaning they see a milder winter than half of the places profiled here. Alas, locations high in the snowy Rocky Mountains (particularly Jackson Hole, Wyoming, with a score of 0), with their perfect weather for skiing, score at the bottom for winter mildness.



SUMMER MILDNESS

To measure how mild the summers are, *Retirement Places Rated* considers humidity, the average 24-hour temperature of the hottest month, and the number of days the thermometer tops 90°F. Fairplay, Colorado, has a summer mildness score of 100. Two regions in North Carolina—Chapel Hill–Carrboro and Southern Pines–Pinehurst—each get a score of 50, meaning they see a milder summer than half of the other retirement areas. Madison, Mississippi, hot and humid during the summer months, gets a 0. These retirement places are respectively the best, average, and worst for summer mildness.

HAZARD FREE

Bad weather isn't just inconvenient—it is downright dangerous. Aside from delaying and canceling social and business events, it contributes to injury and even death. The general hazardousness of an area is measured by normal winter snowfall and the frequencies of two other elements: strong winds and thunderstorms.

To score for relative freedom from these hazards, *Retirement Places Rated* counts snow three times as heavily as thunderstorms, and thunderstorms three times as heavily as strong winds. The higher the score, the freer the metro area is from these weather hazards.

Santa Barbara, Morro Bay–Cambria, and Laguna Beach–Dana Point on the Southern California coast do best here. Chapel Hill–Carrboro, North Carolina, and Oxford, Mississippi, are average, at 50. The Leelanau Peninsula in northern Michigan earns a hazard-ridden score of 0.

SEASONAL AFFECT

If you need something to blame for tiredness, depression, irritability, lack of sleep, lack of focus, lack of ambition, lack of interest in sex or food, headaches, chest and joint pains, hallucinations, and any other ailments, stick it to the weather.

To measure the local weather's seasonal affect, or psychological impact, the number of cloudy days (more than 80 percent cloud cover) and wet days (precipitation greater than 0.1 in.) are weighted twice as heavily as the number of fog (visibility less than ½ mile) days, and fog days are weighted twice as heavily as latitude, an indicator of potential sunlight. Yuma, Arizona, earns a perfect 100 score. Port St. Lucie, Florida, and St. Marys, Georgia, get 50. Palmer–Wasilla, Alaska, scores at the bottom. These metro areas are respectively the best, average, and worst for bright seasons and seasonal affect.

RANKINGS: CLIMATE

To rank places for mild climate, four factors get equal weight: (1) **summer mildness**; (2) **winter mildness**; (3) **seasonal affect**, or the psychological impact of cloudiness, darkness, fog, and rain; and (4) **hazard free**, or

the relative absence of snow, thunderstorms, and high wind. A place's score is its percentile on a scale of 0 to 100, corresponding to its rank. Locations with tie scores get the same rank and are listed alphabetically.

Retirement Places from First to Last

RANK	PLACE	SCORE
1.	Santa Barbara, CA	100.0
2.	Carmel–Pebble Beach, CA	99.4
3.	Laguna Beach–Dana Point, CA	98.9
4.	Morro Bay–Cambria, CA	98.4
5.	Scottsdale, AZ	97.9
6.	Palm Springs–Coachella Valley, CA	97.4
7.	Yuma, AZ	96.9
8.	Lake Havasu City, AZ	96.4
9.	Victorville–Apple Valley, CA	95.9
10.	Mendocino–Fort Bragg, CA	95.4

RANK	PLACE	SCORE
• 11.	Wickenburg, AZ	94.9
• 12.	The Big Island, HI	94.4
• 13.	Maui, HI	93.9
• 14.	Paradise–Magalia, CA	93.4
• 15.	Kingman, AZ	92.9
• 16.	Sonora–Twain Harte, CA	92.4
• 17.	Placer County, CA	91.9
• 18.	Henderson, NV	91.4
• 19.	Sarasota, FL	90.9
• 20.	Fort Myers–Cape Coral, FL	90.4

continued



Retirement Places from First to Last (cont.)

RANK	PLACE	SCORE
21.	Alpine–Big Bend, TX	89.9
22.	Carson City–Carson Valley, NV	89.4
23.	Bisbee, AZ	88.9
24.	Bradenton, FL	88.4
25.	Prescott–Prescott Valley, AZ	87.9
26.	Cottonwood–Verde Valley, AZ	87.4
27.	Melbourne–Palm Bay, FL	86.9
28.	Port Angeles–Sequim, WA	86.4
29.	Port Townsend, WA	85.9
30.	Naples, FL	85.4
31.	Largo, FL	84.4
31.	Pahrump Valley, NV	84.4
33.	Amador County, CA	83.9
34.	St. Simons–Jekyll Islands, GA	83.4
35.	Grants Pass, OR	82.9
36.	St. Augustine, FL	82.4
37.	Tucson, AZ	81.9
38.	Mariposa, CA	81.4
39.	Oakhurst–Coarsegold, CA	80.9
40.	Payson, AZ	80.4
41.	Leesburg–Mount Dora, FL	79.8
42.	Medford–Ashland, OR	79.3
43.	Port Charlotte, FL	78.8
44.	Ruidoso, NM	78.3
45.	Kissimmee–St. Cloud, FL	77.8
46.	Lakeland–Winter Haven, FL	77.3
47.	McAllen–Alamo, TX	76.8
48.	Gainesville, FL	76.3
49.	Sedona, AZ	75.8
50.	Vero Beach, FL	75.3
51.	Grass Valley–Nevada City, CA	74.8
52.	Alamogordo, NM	74.3
53.	Ocala, FL	73.8
54.	Sebring–Avon Park, FL	73.3
55.	Brownsville, TX	72.8
56.	Apalachicola, FL	72.3
57.	St. Marys, GA	71.8
58.	Las Cruces, NM	71.3
59.	Kerrville, TX	70.3
59.	Thomasville, GA	70.3
61.	San Juan Islands, WA	69.8
62.	Port St. Lucie, FL	69.3
63.	Silver City, NM	68.8
64.	Boerne, TX	68.3
65.	St. George–Zion, UT	67.8
66.	Fredericksburg, TX	67.3
67.	Panama City, FL	66.8
68.	New Braunfels, TX	66.3
69.	Savannah, GA	65.8
70.	Newport–Lincoln City, OR	65.3
71.	Whidbey Island, WA	64.8
72.	Anacortes, WA	64.3
73.	Bellingham, WA	63.8
74.	Georgetown, TX	63.3
75.	Bend, OR	62.8
76.	Rockport–Aransas Pass, TX	62.3
77.	Lake Conroe, TX	61.8
78.	Marble Falls–Lake LBJ, TX	61.3
79.	Athens, GA	60.8
80.	Charleston, SC	59.7
80.	Flagstaff, AZ	59.7
82.	Delta County, CO	59.2
83.	Key West, FL	58.7
84.	Hilton Head Island, SC	58.2
85.	Montrose, CO	57.7

RANK	PLACE	SCORE
86.	Beaufort, SC	56.7
86.	Santa Fe, NM	56.7
88.	Pendleton District, SC	56.2
89.	Las Vegas, NM	55.7
90.	Rio Rancho, NM	55.2
91.	Hot Springs, AR	54.7
92.	Southport–Brunswick Islands, NC	54.2
93.	Myrtle Beach, SC	53.7
94.	Grand Junction, CO	53.2
95.	Tryon, NC	52.7
96.	Durango, CO	52.2
97.	Hamilton–Bitterroot Valley, MT	51.2
97.	Taos, NM	51.2
99.	Cedar Creek Lake, TX	50.2
99.	Eugene, OR	50.2
101.	Roswell, NM	49.7
102.	Chapel Hill–Carrboro, NC	49.2
103.	Western St. Tammany Parish, LA	48.7
104.	Bay St. Louis–Pass Christian, MS	48.2
105.	Wimberley, TX	47.7
106.	Pagosa Springs, CO	46.7
106.	Southern Pines–Pinehurst, NC	46.7
108.	Smith Mountain Lake, VA	46.2
109.	Dahlonega, GA	45.7
110.	Fairhope–Gulf Shores, AL	45.2
111.	Beaufort–Atlantic Beach, NC	44.7
112.	Kalispell–Flathead Valley, MT	44.2
113.	Cortez, CO	43.7
114.	Rabun County, GA	43.2
115.	Fort Collins–Loveland, CO	42.7
116.	Oxford, MS	42.2
117.	Madison, MS	41.7
118.	Pensacola, FL	41.2
119.	Natchitoches, LA	40.7
120.	Asheville, NC	40.2
121.	Waynesville, NC	39.6
122.	Hattiesburg, MS	39.1
123.	Lower Cape May, NJ	38.6
124.	Brevard, NC	38.1
125.	Charlottesville, VA	37.6
126.	Edenton, NC	37.1
127.	Easton–St. Michaels, MD	36.6
128.	Hendersonville–East Flat Rock, NC	36.1
129.	Summerville, SC	35.1
129.	Wenatchee, WA	35.1
131.	Long Beach Peninsula, WA	34.6
132.	Murray–Kentucky Lake, KY	33.6
132.	Ocean City, MD	33.6
134.	Ketchum–Sun Valley, ID	33.1
135.	Conway, AR	32.6
136.	Annapolis, MD	32.1
137.	Lake of the Cherokees, OK	31.6
138.	Fredericksburg–Spotsylvania, VA	31.1
139.	Rehoboth Bay–Indian River Bay, DE	30.6
140.	Charles Town–Shepherdstown, WV	30.1
141.	Park City, UT	29.6
142.	State College, PA	29.1
143.	Norfolk Lake, AR	28.6
144.	Crossville, TN	28.1
145.	Eureka Springs, AR	27.6
146.	Silverthorne–Breckenridge, CO	27.1
147.	New Bern, NC	26.6
148.	East End Long Island, NY	25.1
148.	Maryville, TN	25.1
148.	Williamsburg, VA	25.1



RANK	PLACE	SCORE
151.	Fayetteville, AR	24.1
151.	Northern Neck, VA	24.1
153.	Boone–Blowing Rock, NC	23.6
154.	Bozeman, MT	23.1
155.	Coeur d’Alene, ID	22.6
156.	Dare Outer Banks, NC	22.1
157.	Toms River–Barnegat Bay, NJ	21.6
158.	McCall, ID	21.1
159.	Pike County, PA	20.6
160.	Branson, MO	20.1
161.	Door Peninsula, WI	19.0
161.	Cedar City, UT	19.0
163.	Fairplay, CO	18.5
164.	Nelson County, VA	18.0
165.	Driggs, ID	17.0
165.	Jackson Hole, WY	17.0
167.	Middle Cape Cod, MA	16.5
168.	Eagle River–Woodruff, WI	16.0
169.	Litchfield Hills, CT	15.5
170.	Northampton–Amherst, MA	15.0
171.	Southern Berkshire County, MA	14.5
172.	Martha’s Vineyard, MA	14.0
173.	Chewelah, WA	13.5
174.	Palmer–Wasilla, AK	13.0
175.	Camden, ME	12.5

RANK	PLACE	SCORE
176.	Hampshire County, WV	12.0
177.	Chestertown, MD	11.0
177.	Lake of the Ozarks, MO	11.0
179.	Front Royal, VA	10.5
180.	Hanover, NH	10.0
181.	East Stroudsburg, PA	9.5
182.	Bar Harbor, ME	8.5
182.	St. Jay–Northeast Kingdom, VT	8.5
184.	Sandpoint–Lake Pend Oreille, ID	7.5
184.	Woodstock, VT	7.5
186.	Sullivan County, NY	7.0
187.	York Beaches, ME	6.5
188.	Traverse City, MI	6.0
189.	Berkeley Springs, WV	5.5
190.	Loudoun County, VA	5.0
191.	Petoskey–Harbor Springs, MI	4.5
192.	Brunswick, ME	3.5
192.	Madison, WI	3.5
194.	Burlington, VT	3.0
195.	Iowa City, IA	2.5
196.	Columbia, MO	2.0
197.	Brown County, IN	1.5
198.	Leelanau Peninsula, MI	1.0
199.	Lake Placid, NY	0.5
200.	Monadnock Region, NH	0.0

PLACE PROFILES: CLIMATE

The following are the primary sources for the data referred to in this section:

- Temperature and precipitation data come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) *Series 20* publications.

The temperature and precipitation data are NOAA’s “30-Year Normals” or averages collected over 3 decades. Every 10 years, the data for the new decade are added into the normal, and the data for the earliest 10 years are dropped to flatten out anomalies and weather extremes. Events such as a freak blizzard in Albuquerque or a heat wave that might occur once every 50 years in Coeur d’Alene have little effect on each place’s 30-year normals.

- Data for humidity, wind speed, and days with fog and thunderstorms, as well as the clear, partly cloudy, and cloudy days, are derived from the closest station reporting in NOAA’s *Local Climatological Data*.

The text summaries describe each place’s location and its distinctive climate and landscape features.

Location details the place’s elevation and its latitude north of the equator and longitude west of Greenwich, England. With these coordinates, you can roughly determine whether one place is farther north, south, east, or west than another.

When **Landscape** is described, it is usually how the terrain influences a place’s climate and what varieties of vegetation grow there naturally. Few people would deny that landscape is an important element on its own; for many, it is as important as climate. Some prefer mountains or seacoasts, others rolling hills or flatwoods forests, while still others favor stark desert vistas. Landscapes are not rated; rather, they are described briefly here and the decision is left up to you.

The descriptions for **Climate** are capsule summaries of each location’s type and general features.

The tables to the right of each description include monthly high and low temperatures, relative humidity observed nearest to noon, wind speed, precipitation,



and snowfall. Each profile also includes a visual legend for the number of days per year that a place sees such conditions as a partly cloudy sky, temperatures below zero, and thunderstorms (see sample legend to the right).

A star (★) preceding a place's name highlights it as one of the top 30 places for climate mildness.

	125	Annual number of clear days (days with less than 30% cloud cover)
	175	Annual number of partly-cloudy days (days with less than 70% but more than 30% cover)
	65	Annual number of cloudy days (days with more than 70% cover)
	67	Annual numbers of days temperature tops 90°F
	60	Annual number of days temperature hits freezing
	0	Annual number of days temperature hits 0°F
	50	Annual number of days fog limits visibility
	72	Annual number of days precipitation exceeds one-tenth of an inch
	43	Annual number of days with one or more thunderstorm cells

Alamogordo, NM

Rank: 52

Location: 32.54 N and 105.57 W at 4,303 feet, some 200 miles south of Albuquerque and 55 miles north of El Paso, Texas.

Landscape: Low mountains. The city is near the western base of the Sacramento Mountains that peak around 4,500 feet and form the eastern rim of the Tularosa Basin. The area has the typical high desert look with native thorny shrubs of mesquite and creosote bush. White gypsum dunes of the White Sands National Monument stretch across the west toward the San Andreas Mountains. Juniper and piñon pine forests stand in higher elevations and in the Lincoln National Forest.

Climate: Desert character with long, hot, bright, and usually dry summers. Temperature changes from daytime highs to nighttime lows can be dramatic at all seasons. Rains are widespread and usually gentle except for July and August, when they typically come in heavy thunderstorms. Winters are moderate but subject to occasional frosts from November to March. Infrequent snowfalls melt within days.

Summer mildness: 41

Seasonal affect: 93

Winter mildness: 47

Hazard free: 60

	193
	100
	72
	103
	84
	0
	2
	27
	36

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	57	28	42	8.4	0.7	1.7
FEB	62	32	34	9.2	0.5	1.0
MAR	69	38	27	11.0	0.5	0.5
APR	78	45	21	11.1	0.3	0
MAY	87	54	21	10.3	0.5	0
JUN	95	62	23	9.3	0.9	0
JUL	95	66	35	8.3	2.2	0
AUG	92	64	39	7.8	2.4	0
SEP	86	58	41	7.6	2.0	0
OCT	78	47	36	7.5	1.3	0
NOV	66	36	37	8.0	0.7	0
DEC	58	29	42	7.9	0.8	1.1

★ Alpine-Big Bend, TX

Rank: 21

Location: 30.21 N and 103.39 W at 4,480 feet in west Texas, 190 miles southeast of El Paso and 75 miles north of the Rio Grande and Mexico.

Landscape: Plains with low mountains. Located in a high desert valley flanked by the Davis Mountains to the north and the Glass Mountains to the east. Dry canyons and extensive, sparse rangeland contrast with the forests of the mountain elevations. In the valleys and on the lower slopes are many varieties of cactus, and a soaking rain makes wildflowers abundant.

Climate: Chihuahuan Desert moderated by altitude. Summers are long and sunny. Winters are brief and mild, though subject to occasional morning frosts, the first of which occurs in early November and the last in early April. Most of the area's 17 inches of rain falls from July to September as spectacular afternoon thunderheads build over the mountains and move across the countryside.

Summer mildness: 59

Seasonal affect: 94

Winter mildness: 54

Hazard free: 62

	193
	100
	72
	67
	60
	0
	2
	28
	36

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	61	30	42	8.4	0.5	1.1
FEB	65	33	34	9.2	0.5	1.1
MAR	72	39	27	11.0	0.4	0
APR	80	46	21	11.1	0.5	0
MAY	86	54	21	10.3	1.2	0
JUN	90	61	23	9.3	2.2	0
JUL	89	63	35	8.3	2.7	0
AUG	88	61	39	7.8	3.0	0
SEP	83	57	41	7.6	3.3	0
OCT	78	47	36	7.5	1.5	0
NOV	69	38	37	8.0	0.6	0
DEC	62	32	42	7.9	0.5	0.3

**Amador County, CA****Rank: 33**

Location: The weather station is the county seat at Jackson, 38.21 N and 120.46 W at 1,975 feet, 45 miles southeast of Sacramento and 100 miles southwest of Reno, Nevada.

Landscape: Low mountains. In the higher grassy foothills of the western slope of the Sierra Nevadas, with steep gradients from mountain to valley. Canyons cut the forested slope, giving dramatic relief. Snow-fed rivers, lakes, and reservoirs promote wildflowers and low-growing shrubs. Digger pine and blue oak are found at higher elevations.

Climate: Sierran Forest, in the transition zone between the dry western desert and the wetter Pacific Coast. Mountain temperature changes can vary greatly both daily and seasonally. Prevailing west winds together with elevation influence local conditions. The summers are long, hot, and generally dry. About half of the annual precipitation falls as snow. Frost appears in early November and departs by late April.

Summer mildness: 54**Seasonal affect:** 74**Winter mildness:** 73**Hazard free:** 57

	189
	75
	100
	59
	77
	0
	34
	49
	14

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	57	34	80	7.3	5.2	5.3
FEB	62	37	75	7.4	4.4	3.1
MAR	65	39	65	7.9	5.0	3.0
APR	72	42	55	8.3	2.7	0
MAY	81	47	48	8.3	0.7	0
JUN	90	52	44	8.5	0.3	0
JUL	97	56	44	9.5	0.2	0
AUG	96	55	45	8.9	0.2	0
SEP	90	52	45	7.3	0.6	0
OCT	80	46	53	6.6	1.8	0
NOV	65	40	65	6.9	4.5	0
DEC	57	35	77	7.2	4.5	2.7

Anacortes, WA**Rank: 72**

Location: 48.30 N and 122.36 W at 75 feet on Fidalgo Island in upper Puget Sound. Via a bridge eastward to the mainland, Seattle is 80 miles south and Vancouver, British Columbia, is 90 miles north.

Landscape: High mountains. Fidalgo Island is relatively big with many low-rise hills. The original coniferous forest of Sitka spruce and western hemlock has largely given way to fruit farms. The shoreline has many small harbors and embayments. Distantly visible on the mainland to the east are Mount Baker and the North Cascade Mountains.

Climate: Marine, characterized by moderate temperatures, a pronounced rainy season, and constant cloud cover during the winter. Anacortes is modified by its position within the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountain range to the south, resulting in more sun and less rain than other Pacific Coast places. Summers are pleasantly cool with low precipitation. Winter days are mild with prevailing temperatures in the 40s; nights are chilly. The first frost arrives November 12 and the last frost departs March 22.

Summer mildness: 88**Seasonal affect:** 1**Winter mildness:** 74**Hazard free:** 63

	50
	84
	231
	0
	68
	0
	90
	95
	5

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	34	77	7.1	3.6	5.2
FEB	49	36	74	7.2	2.5	1.3
MAR	52	38	70	7.4	2.1	2.4
APR	56	41	67	7.4	1.8	0
MAY	62	46	64	6.9	1.6	0
JUN	67	50	62	6.7	1.3	0
JUL	71	52	62	6.2	1.0	0
AUG	72	52	63	6.0	1.0	0
SEP	67	49	68	5.7	1.5	0
OCT	59	44	75	5.9	2.3	0
NOV	50	39	78	6.9	3.6	0
DEC	46	35	80	7.3	3.8	4.4

Annapolis, MD**Rank: 136**

Location: 38.58 N and 76.29 W at 41 feet on the Severn River near its mouth on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Baltimore is 27 miles northwest, and Washington, D.C., 35 miles southwest.

Landscape: Irregular plains. The wide Severn River drains low, long rolling hills into the upper Bay. The surrounding area is extensively developed suburban and agricultural land. Whatever native vegetation remains flourishes in the mild winters and hot summers of the coastal plains and are typically southern trees, such as the loblolly pine and the magnolia.

Climate: Subtropical with a definite marine influence. Summer days are hot and humid, though a Bay breeze often lifts in the afternoons. Winters are overcast, chilly, and rainy. Frost comes as soon as November 1 and departs in early April. Snowfalls are brief and melt within hours. Spring arrives early for this latitude.

Summer mildness: 56**Seasonal affect:** 43**Winter mildness:** 30**Hazard free:** 42

	107
	108
	150
	28
	93
	0
	26
	72
	28

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	42	25	57	9.7	3.3	4.5
FEB	45	27	54	10.3	3.2	5.3
MAR	55	35	50	10.9	3.6	2.6
APR	66	44	49	10.6	3.4	0
MAY	76	54	53	9.2	4.1	0
JUN	84	63	52	8.5	3.4	0
JUL	88	68	53	8.0	3.6	0
AUG	86	67	56	7.8	3.9	0
SEP	80	60	55	8.0	3.3	0
OCT	69	48	54	8.7	3.3	0
NOV	58	39	55	9.3	3.5	0
DEC	47	30	57	9.3	3.4	2.0



Apalachicola, FL

Rank: 56

Location: 29.43 N and 84.59 W at 30 feet at the mouth of the Apalachicola River on Apalachicola Bay and the Gulf of Mexico 65 miles southwest of the state capital at Tallahassee.

Landscape: Flat plains. Much of the area is gently sloping, but nowhere is there relief greater than 100 feet. Marshes, swamps, and lakes are common. The trees include evergreen oaks, short palm, and members of the magnolia and laurel families.

Climate: Subtropical, with warm summers with sporadic heavy thunderstorms and humidity slightly tempered by sea breezes. Winters fare extremely mild though somewhat cool, with unpredictable, brief cold spells.

Summer mildness: 6

Winter mildness: 83

Seasonal affect: 58

Hazard free: 90

	106
	123
	136
	90°
	67
	32°
	12
	0°
	0
	178
	66
	68

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	61	39	72	9.0	3.9	0
FEB	63	41	70	9.4	3.8	0
MAR	69	48	71	9.7	4.3	0
APR	76	55	71	9.5	2.7	0
MAY	82	62	73	8.6	2.7	0
JUN	87	69	73	7.6	4.6	0
JUL	88	72	76	7.0	7.4	0
AUG	88	71	78	6.7	7.5	0
SEP	86	68	75	7.6	7.5	0
OCT	79	56	70	7.9	3.4	0
NOV	71	48	72	8.4	3.2	0
DEC	64	41	74	8.9	4.1	0

Asheville, NC

Rank: 120

Location: 35.36 N and 82.33 W at 2,134 feet, in western North Carolina. Charlotte is 120 miles east and Knoxville, Tennessee, is 120 miles west.

Landscape: Low mountains. Two miles upstream from the city, the Swannanoa and French Broad rivers join to form the Asheville Plateau valley, flanked on the east and west by mountain ranges. Thirty miles south, the Blue Ridge Mountains form an escarpment with 2,700 feet average elevation. Nearby peaks include Mount Mitchell (6,684 ft.) and Big Pisgah (5,721 ft.). Tall oak, hickory, walnut, maple, and basswood trees produce a dense canopy in summer. There are lower layers of small trees, dogwood, blueberry, and haw.

Climate: Temperate but invigorating. Considerable variation in temperature occurs from day to day throughout the year. The valley has a pronounced effect on wind direction, which is mostly from the northwest. Destructive weather events are rare. The first frost arrives October 24 and the last frost departs in early April.

Summer mildness: 58

Winter mildness: 60

Seasonal affect: 29

Hazard free: 37

	103
	113
	149
	90°
	10
	32°
	86
	0°
	0
	78
	75
	45

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	26	59	9.7	2.5	5.0
FEB	49	29	56	9.6	3.3	4.8
MAR	58	37	53	9.4	3.9	2.6
APR	67	45	50	8.9	3.1	0
MAY	74	52	57	7.1	3.6	0
JUN	81	60	59	6.1	3.3	0
JUL	84	64	63	5.8	2.9	0
AUG	83	63	63	5.4	3.8	0
SEP	77	57	64	5.6	3.2	0
OCT	67	45	57	6.8	2.8	0
NOV	58	37	57	8.1	2.9	0
DEC	49	30	59	8.9	2.8	1.9

Athens, GA

Rank: 79

Location: 33.57 N and 83.22 W at 662 feet, in Georgia's Piedmont Plateau. Atlanta is 60 miles west.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Local elevations range between 600 and 800 feet in rolling terrain. Streams drain eastward to the Savannah River. The countryside is agricultural, with occasional stands of trees dominated by southern yellow pine, with some mixed hardwood.

Climate: The city's climate is influenced by the Atlantic Ocean 200 miles southeast, the Gulf of Mexico 275 miles south, and the southern Appalachian Mountains to the north and northwest. Summers are warm and humid, but without prolonged periods of extreme heat. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year. The mountains to the north partially block extremely cold air, softening the city's winters. Cold spells are short-lived, broken up by periods of warm southerly airflow. Frost arrives just after Halloween, and the last frost departs before April Fools' Day.

Summer mildness: 29

Winter mildness: 73

Seasonal affect: 57

Hazard free: 61

	114
	106
	146
	90°
	70
	32°
	70
	0°
	0
	39
	70
	51

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	52	32	58	8.5	4.6	0.9
FEB	56	35	55	8.9	4.4	0.7
MAR	65	42	53	8.8	5.5	0.4
APR	73	50	50	8.3	4.0	0
MAY	81	58	54	7.1	4.4	0
JUN	87	66	55	6.6	3.9	0
JUL	90	70	59	6.3	4.9	0
AUG	88	69	59	5.8	3.7	0
SEP	83	63	60	6.4	3.4	0
OCT	74	51	54	6.8	3.3	0
NOV	64	42	54	7.4	3.7	0
DEC	55	35	57	8.0	4.1	0.2

**Bar Harbor, ME****Rank: 182**

Location: 44.23 N and 68.12 W at 20 feet on the north-east shore of Mount Desert Island off Maine's Atlantic Coast. Augusta, the capital, is 35 miles west. Boston, Massachusetts, is 165 miles south.

Landscape: Plains with high hills. Glacial features are characteristic in many lakes, islands, and the rocky coastline. Elevations range from sea level to 1,530-foot Mount Cadillac, producing a dramatic combination of mountains, sheer cliff, and ocean. Tortuous trails crisscross Mount Desert. Native vegetation includes a mix of northern hardwoods and spruce.

Climate: Warm continental, with winters that are moderately long and occasionally severe if the predominant weather is coming from the Carolina coast. The first frost hits October 4. The Atlantic Ocean moderates the cold winds from the Canadian Arctic. Spring arrives late, with the last freeze occurring May 9. Summer weather is mild, changeable, and influenced by tropical storms that sweep up the Atlantic Coast. Autumn is bright and mild.

Summer mildness: 84**Seasonal affect:** 10**Winter mildness:** 12**Hazard free:** 13

	102
	99
	164
	4
	158
	13
	49
	76
	18

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	30	11	61	9.2	3.6	20.3
FEB	33	12	58	9.4	3.4	18.2
MAR	41	23	58	10.0	3.7	13.3
APR	52	32	55	10.0	4.1	3.0
MAY	63	42	58	9.2	3.9	0
JUN	73	51	60	8.2	3.2	0
JUL	78	57	59	7.6	3.3	0
AUG	77	56	59	7.5	3.1	0
SEP	69	48	59	7.8	3.7	0
OCT	58	39	50	8.4	3.9	0
NOV	46	31	62	8.8	5.2	4.0
DEC	34	17	62	9.0	4.7	15.9

Bay St. Louis—Pass Christian, MS**Rank: 104**

Location: 30.18 N and 89.19 W at 28 feet, on the state's thickly settled Gulf Coast. New Orleans, Louisiana, is 60 miles west, and Mobile, Alabama, is 70 miles east.

Landscape: Flat, consisting of low-lying delta flood plains sloping to sand beaches and shallow harbors and bays. Native trees are a temperate rainforest of evergreen, oak, laurel, and magnolia, with large stands of loblolly and slash pine in the sandy upland areas.

Climate: Subtropical. The Gulf waters modify local climate. Summers are hot and humid, though temperatures of 90°F or higher occur only half as often here as they do in Hattiesburg, 60 miles north. However, there's no such reverse effect on cold air moving down from the north in winter. November 30 marks the first frost; the last frost occurs in mid-February. Rainfall is plentiful and heaviest in July. Damage from hurricanes and tropical storms can occur six to seven times a year.

Summer mildness: 10**Seasonal affect:** 56**Winter mildness:** 71**Hazard free:** 60

	103
	116
	146
	55
	15
	0
	28
	73
	74

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	42	66	10.4	5.4	0.3
FEB	63	45	63	10.7	5.9	0.1
MAR	69	52	60	10.9	5.3	0.1
APR	76	60	60	10.2	4.4	0
MAY	83	67	60	8.9	4.8	0
JUN	88	73	63	7.7	5.0	0
JUL	90	75	66	7.0	6.5	0
AUG	90	74	66	6.8	6.6	0
SEP	87	70	65	7.9	5.3	0
OCT	80	60	60	8.2	3.3	0
NOV	71	52	62	9.3	4.1	0
DEC	63	46	66	10.1	5.4	0.2

Beaufort, SC**Rank: 86**

Location: 32.26 N and 80.40 W at 11 feet on Port Royal, one of the Sea Islands, 45 miles south of Charleston and 35 miles north of Savannah, Georgia.

Landscape: Flat plains. The land is low with elevations averaging less than 25 feet. Port Royal is one of dozens of islands of various shapes and sizes with fresh and saltwater streams, inlets, rivers, and sounds. Most have many swampy areas. Coastal Plain forests of beech, sweet gum, magnolia, pine, and oak are common.

Climate: Subtropical. The island group is on the edge of the balmy climate enjoyed by Florida. The surrounding water produces a maritime climate with mild winters, hot summers with regular thunderstorms, and seasonal temperatures that shift slowly. The inland Appalachian Mountains block cold air from the northern interior, and the Gulf Stream moderates the climate considerably. November 20 heralds the arrival of first frost, and the last frost departs March 9.

Summer mildness: 16**Seasonal affect:** 48**Winter mildness:** 75**Hazard free:** 74

	104
	109
	152
	56
	28
	0
	28
	71
	56

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	59	39	57	9.1	3.7	0.1
FEB	62	41	55	9.9	3.3	0.2
MAR	70	48	53	10.0	4.1	0
APR	77	55	50	9.7	2.9	0
MAY	83	63	55	8.7	4.0	0
JUN	88	69	60	8.4	6.1	0
JUL	90	73	66	7.9	6.4	0
AUG	89	72	70	7.4	7.9	0
SEP	85	68	67	7.8	5.0	0
OCT	78	58	70	8.1	2.6	0
NOV	70	49	60	8.1	2.4	0
DEC	62	42	60	8.5	3.2	0

**Beaufort–Atlantic Beach, NC****Rank: 111**

Location: 34.43 N and 76.40 W at 15 feet at the north end of Onslow Bay on the Atlantic Coast. Wilmington is 100 miles southwest.

Landscape: Flat plains. The Bogue Banks, a series of offshore island reefs, separate Bogue Sound, part of the Intracoastal Waterway, from the Atlantic. Typical of the Carolina coast, the Banks are composed of dunes, marshes, and maritime forest. Sea oats grow on the dunes. Salt marsh cordgrass, saltmeadow hay, sea ox-eye, and black needlebrush predominate in the marsh. The forest includes oak, pine, cedar, youpon, and wax myrtle.

Climate: Subtropical, moderated by the ocean. Summers are warm and humid, with frequent thunderstorms. Winters are mild with little or no snow. Spring and fall are long lasting and pleasant. Frost first appears November 19 and departs 4 months later in mid-March. Rain falls consistently throughout the year, and tropical storms are a threat from late summer to early fall.

Summer mildness: 29**Seasonal affect:** 42**Winter mildness:** 65**Hazard free:** 54

	111
	104
	150
	14
	37
	0
	174
	65
	47

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	55	35	68	9.0	4.6	0.7
FEB	57	36	65	9.7	4.2	1.0
MAR	63	43	67	10.1	4.0	1.1
APR	71	51	64	10.2	2.9	0
MAY	78	60	71	9.1	4.6	0
JUN	84	68	72	8.5	4.4	0
JUL	87	72	75	7.9	6.8	0
AUG	87	72	78	7.4	6.2	0
SEP	83	67	76	7.8	5.3	0
OCT	76	56	72	8.0	3.9	0
NOV	68	47	70	8.1	3.7	0
DEC	59	39	69	8.4	4.2	0.3

Bellingham, WA**Rank: 73**

Location: 48.45 N and 122.29 W at 60 feet, on Bellingham Bay in the northwest corner of Washington State. Seattle is 90 miles south, and Vancouver, British Columbia, is 50 miles north.

Landscape: High mountains. Dominated by the broad, glacier-carved Skagit River Valley with fjords and deep undersea troughs. East of Bellingham are the North Cascade Mountains and Mount Baker at 10,775 feet. The San Juan Islands are offshore in Puget Sound. The natural vegetation is a predominantly needleleaf forest of Douglas fir, red cedar, and spruce.

Climate: Marine. Winter days are mild, but the nights are chilly. Six months lie between the first frost in November and the last frost in mid- to late April. Summers are cool with low precipitation. The cooler air temperatures reduce evaporation and produce a very damp, humid climate with heavy cloud cover.

Summer mildness: 87**Seasonal affect:** 1**Winter mildness:** 71**Hazard free:** 63

	50
	84
	231
	0
	68
	0
	90
	91
	5

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	43	32	77	7.1	4.7	5.2
FEB	48	35	74	7.2	3.6	1.3
MAR	51	36	70	7.4	3.0	2.4
APR	56	40	67	7.4	2.7	0
MAY	62	45	64	6.9	2.3	0
JUN	67	51	62	6.7	1.8	0
JUL	71	53	62	6.2	1.3	0
AUG	71	54	63	6.0	1.4	0
SEP	67	48	68	5.7	1.9	0
OCT	58	42	75	5.9	3.4	0
NOV	50	37	78	6.9	5.0	0
DEC	44	33	80	7.3	5.0	4.4

Bend, OR**Rank: 75**

Location: 44.03 N and 121.19 W at 3,629 feet near the center of the state along the western border of the Harney Basin and Great Sandy Desert. Portland is 130 miles northwest.

Landscape: Open high mountains. The Cascades terrace upward to crests of 10,000 feet about 10 miles west. A rolling plateau extends south and east into California, Nevada, and Idaho. To the north, canyons and streams that feed into the Columbia River cut the plateau. The lower elevation is a shortgrass prairie of grama, needlegrass, and wheatgrass. Mountain forests are Douglas fir, red cedar, and spruce.

Climate: Continental. The Cascades restrain extreme summer temperatures and also block moisture-laden Pacific winds. Rains are generally light with only a rare rainfall of an inch or more. The average growing season is about 82 days, with frost coming as early as late August and departing as late as July. Moderate days and cool nights characterize temperatures here.

Summer mildness: 94**Seasonal affect:** 45**Winter mildness:** 43**Hazard free:** 41

	117
	79
	169
	13
	196
	4
	50
	31
	8

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	42	22	81	4.1	1.8	12.3
FEB	46	25	77	4.5	1.0	4.7
MAR	51	26	66	5.3	0.9	5.6
APR	58	29	57	5.7	0.6	2.0
MAY	65	35	50	5.7	0.8	0
JUN	74	41	44	5.9	0.9	0
JUL	81	45	40	5.8	0.5	0
AUG	81	45	40	5.3	0.6	0
SEP	73	38	42	4.5	0.5	0
OCT	63	32	57	3.7	0.7	0
NOV	48	27	80	3.6	1.6	5.0
DEC	42	22	85	3.6	2.0	9.4



Berkeley Springs, WV

Rank: 189

Location: 39.33 N and 78.15 W at 730 feet at the extreme northern edge of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, some 85 air miles northwest of Washington, D.C.

Landscape: Open low mountains. Most of the area is rolling. On the east, the Appalachian Mountains produce high relief. The naturally occurring vegetation is a typical deciduous forest of oak, beech, hickory, and ash. Second growth is rapidly growing pine. In spring, a luxuriant low layer of herbs quickly develops.

Climate: Hot continental, with cold and somewhat snowy winters, but mild summers thanks to elevation. Precipitation is adequate in all months but greater in summer when moisture demands are high. The first frost arrives October 18 and the last frost departs April 25. This is one of the cloudier locations for retirement, mainly in winter and spring.

Summer mildness: 58

Seasonal affect: 11

Winter mildness: 18

Hazard free: 17

	58
	103
	204
	7
	124
	5
	178
	71
	35

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	34	19	69	10.6	2.4	11.3
FEB	37	20	68	10.5	2.5	9.3
MAR	49	30	65	10.7	3.1	8.7
APR	60	39	65	10.3	3.2	1.7
MAY	71	48	71	8.9	4.1	0.1
JUN	79	57	70	8.0	3.4	0
JUL	83	62	65	7.3	3.5	0
AUG	81	60	65	6.9	3.3	0
SEP	74	54	70	7.4	2.8	0
OCT	63	42	66	8.4	3.4	0.4
NOV	50	34	68	9.8	3.1	3.3
DEC	39	24	68	10.4	2.7	8.3

★ The Big Island, HI

Rank: 12

Location: The weather station is at Hilo, 19.43 N and 155.05 W at 38 feet on the island's east coast some 200 air miles from Honolulu.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. All the islands are volcanoes in various stages of erosion. Hawaii, the largest and most easterly of the islands, has peaks higher than 13,000 feet and some active volcanoes. Coastlines are mostly rocky and rough. Native flora are unique, and forests vary by availability of moisture.

Climate: Mild marine tropical. Daily and seasonal temperature changes are small, secondary to the surrounding ocean and persistent northeast trade winds. Summer days can be hot, owing to high humidity, but temperature and precipitation vary greatly with altitude and exposure. There's marked variation in rainfall depending on the season and place. Severe storms are rare.

Summer mildness: 39

Seasonal affect: 87

Winter mildness: 77

Hazard free: 95

	90
	180
	95
	21
	0
	0
	0
	54
	13

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	80	64	74	9.5	9.9	0
FEB	80	64	73	10.1	10.3	0
MAR	80	64	72	11.4	13.9	0
APR	80	66	72	11.8	15.3	0
MAY	81	67	72	11.8	9.9	0
JUN	83	68	70	12.7	6.2	0
JUL	83	69	70	13.2	9.7	0
AUG	84	69	71	12.8	9.3	0
SEP	84	69	71	11.2	8.5	0
OCT	83	68	75	10.5	9.6	0
NOV	81	67	74	10.7	14.5	0
DEC	80	65	74	10.4	12.0	0

★ Bisbee, AZ

Rank: 23

Location: 31.23 N and 109.55 W at 5,490 feet in south-east Arizona just 7 miles above the Mexico border. Phoenix is 180 miles northwest.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. The city was built in two steep-sided canyons, Mule Pass Gulch and Brewery Gulch. The surrounding topography is Sonoran desert. The vegetation is very sparse, with bare ground between individual plants. On the rocky slopes of the mountains, paloverde, ocotillo, and saguaro are common.

Climate: Desert, with a long summer that starts in late March and ends in October, and produces high temperatures modified by the low humidity. Winters are ideal with warm days and cool nights. Like other locations in the Desert Southwest, nearly every day is clear.

Summer mildness: 18

Seasonal affect: 96

Winter mildness: 84

Hazard free: 70

	194
	90
	81
	140
	18
	0
	3
	12
	42

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	64	39	48	8.0	0.9	0.2
FEB	68	41	43	8.1	0.7	0.2
MAR	73	45	39	8.5	0.7	0.1
APR	81	50	29	8.9	0.3	0.1
MAY	90	58	24	8.8	0.2	0
JUN	100	68	23	8.7	0.2	0
JUL	99	74	43	8.4	2.4	0
AUG	97	72	49	7.9	2.2	0
SEP	93	68	41	8.3	1.7	0
OCT	84	57	39	8.2	1.1	0
NOV	73	46	41	8.1	0.7	0.1
DEC	64	40	49	7.8	1.1	0.2

**Boerne, TX****Rank: 64**

Location: 29.47 N and 98.44 W at 1,405 feet in the south-central Texas Blacklands, 30 miles NW of San Antonio.

Landscape: High hills. Between the southern rim of the Edwards Plateau and the Gulf Coastal Plain, the area is characterized by rolling hills and open prairie. Limestone caverns, bluffs, and creeks that run to the Guadalupe River are common. Vegetation includes prairie grasses, mesquite, cacti, Texas live oak, cypress, and sycamore.

Climate: Subtropical. Winters are mild, but the rest of the year amounts to one long, hot summer. Moist Gulf air adds humidity to the heat. Rainfall is fairly steady, but is heaviest from May to September. Thunderstorms occur throughout the year. Frost arrives in early November and departs before April.

Summer mildness: 38**Seasonal affect:** 73**Winter mildness:** 49**Hazard free:** 75

	108
	118
	139
	90
	45
	0
	22
	46
	37

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	59	33	59	9.0	1.7	0
FEB	63	37	57	9.7	2.1	0.5
MAR	71	44	54	10.4	2.1	0
APR	79	53	56	10.3	3.1	0
MAY	84	61	59	10.0	4.1	0
JUN	89	67	56	9.9	3.8	0
JUL	93	69	51	9.2	2.2	0
AUG	93	68	51	8.5	2.9	0
SEP	88	64	55	8.5	4.2	0
OCT	80	54	54	8.4	3.6	0
NOV	70	44	55	8.8	2.7	0.1
DEC	62	36	57	8.5	1.8	0

Boone-Blowing Rock, NC**Rank: 153**

Location: 36.13 N and 81.40 W at 3,266 feet atop the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina's northwestern corner. Asheville is 50 miles southwest.

Landscape: Low mountains. Rough highland with the deep gorges, mountain trails, and rising elevations of the southern Appalachians. Many streams cut through the forests. A typical heavy Appalachian oak forest covers the mountains with a mix of pine, oak, maple, beech, hickory, and birch.

Climate: Hot continental moderated by the altitude. Winters are long and cold with the first frost showing up by October 2 and the last frost not leaving until May 12. The rest of the year is mild and invigorating. Considerable variation in temperature occurs from day to night throughout the year. Precipitation is constant and plentiful, with long, snowy winters and rainy seasons in spring and summer. Destructive weather events are rare.

Summer mildness: 83**Seasonal affect:** 16**Winter mildness:** 45**Hazard free:** 11

	103
	113
	149
	0
	133
	4
	78
	96
	45

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	41	20	59	9.7	3.8	11.3
FEB	44	22	56	9.6	3.9	11.4
MAR	53	30	53	9.4	4.8	9.3
APR	60	37	50	8.9	4.2	1.0
MAY	68	45	57	7.1	4.8	0
JUN	74	52	59	6.1	4.5	0
JUL	77	56	63	5.8	4.7	0
AUG	76	55	63	5.4	4.7	0
SEP	71	50	64	5.6	4.1	0
OCT	63	39	57	6.8	4.0	0
NOV	54	31	57	8.1	3.9	4.0
DEC	45	24	59	8.9	3.2	7.9

Bozeman, MT**Rank: 154**

Location: 45.41 N and 111.02 W at 5,950 feet in southwest Montana, 112 miles west of Billings and 72 miles east southeast of Butte.

Landscape: High mountains. The Continental Divide, with elevations well over 10,000 feet, provides a scenic backdrop to the city. The Gallatin National Forest is near here and Yellowstone National Park is 45 miles south. The naturally occurring woods are mainly Douglas fir with secondary growth of ponderosa pine, aspen, and lodgepole pine.

Climate: Rigorous mountain, with extremely bright, mild summer days and cool nights and with severe, cloudy winter days and cold nights. Mountains shield the area somewhat from moisture from the Pacific and from bitterly cold arctic air. The first frost arrives August 18 and the last frost departs July 12.

Summer mildness: 84**Seasonal affect:** 8**Winter mildness:** 37**Hazard free:** 26

	115
	92
	153
	21
	137
	15
	67
	115
	23

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	32	14	81	8.0	2.8	12.5
FEB	36	20	77	6.0	2.0	7.7
MAR	40	25	69	7.0	2.7	5.9
APR	48	32	61	8.0	3.2	2.1
MAY	58	39	61	8.0	4.6	0.8
JUN	67	46	61	8.0	4.2	0
JUL	76	50	52	8.0	2.1	0
AUG	75	49	51	8.0	2.5	0
SEP	64	40	60	7.0	3.2	0
OCT	54	31	70	7.0	2.7	0.9
NOV	40	24	80	6.0	2.6	5.8
DEC	33	17	83	7.0	2.5	10.6



★ Bradenton, FL

Rank: 24

Location: 27.30 N and 82.34 W at 19 feet, on the south bank of the Manatee River near its mouth at Tampa Bay. Tampa is 50 miles north.

Landscape: The southern Gulf Coastal Plains are flat and irregular with less than 300 feet variation in altitude over the gently rolling area. Most of the streams are sluggish. Marshes, swamps, and lakes are numerous. Evergreen oaks, laurel, and magnolia are common, but the trees aren't tall and the leaf canopy isn't dense. There is an understory of various shrubs, with ferns and herbaceous plants as ground cover.

Climate: Subtropical. Summer and winter extremes are checked by the influence of the Gulf. Winter days are bright and warm. Nights are moderately cool. Rainfall averages more than 50 inches annually, with two-thirds coming daily between June and September. Most rain falls in late-afternoon or early-evening thunderstorms, bringing relief from the heat.

Summer mildness: 20

Seasonal affect: 72

Winter mildness: 92

Hazard free: 83

	102
	142
	121
	78
	0
	0
	22
	69
	93

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	71	49	56	8.6	2.5	0
FEB	73	51	56	9.2	3.0	0
MAR	77	55	53	9.5	3.2	0
APR	82	59	47	9.3	1.2	0
MAY	87	65	49	8.7	2.8	0
JUN	90	70	56	8.0	7.8	0
JUL	91	72	60	7.2	8.9	0
AUG	91	72	60	7.0	9.5	0
SEP	89	71	60	7.8	8.0	0
OCT	85	65	56	8.5	2.6	0
NOV	79	57	56	8.4	2.1	0
DEC	73	51	56	8.5	2.3	0

Branson, MO

Rank: 160

Location: 36.38 N and 93.13 W at 722 feet, 50 miles south of Springfield near the Arkansas state line.

Landscape: High hills. There are several important lakes and rivers in this area of the Ozark Plateau. The rounded mountains rise somewhat steeply from river valleys and impounded lakes. Oak-hickory forests are tall, providing a dense, high, and leafy cover in summer and colorful foliage in fall, but are completely bare in winter. Pines are evidence of second-growth forest. Lower understory layers of shrub and flowering trees are common throughout.

Climate: Hot continental with hot summers and cool winters. Precipitation is adequate throughout the year and usually falls as rain. Winters may be cold enough for snow, but the typical precipitation is icy rain during brief, intense cold snaps that begin with the first frost around October 16. Spring arrives early and is pleasant.

Summer mildness: 46

Seasonal affect: 60

Winter mildness: 21

Hazard free: 22

	116
	97
	153
	57
	101
	1
	20
	61
	56

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	19	60	11.7	1.9	4.4
FEB	50	23	60	11.9	2.4	4.3
MAR	60	32	56	12.9	3.9	3.4
APR	71	42	55	12.2	3.9	0
MAY	79	50	59	10.4	4.5	0
JUN	86	59	59	9.6	4.3	0
JUL	92	63	56	8.5	3.4	0
AUG	90	61	54	8.6	3.4	0
SEP	83	55	58	9.3	3.9	0
OCT	73	42	54	10.1	3.3	0
NOV	60	33	59	11.3	3.9	1.0
DEC	49	24	63	11.6	3.3	3.0

Brevard, NC

Rank: 124

Location: 35.14 N and 82.44 W at 2,230 feet in the mountains close to the South Carolina border, near the French Broad River, and 40 miles southwest of Asheville.

Landscape: Low mountains. High rounded slopes of the southern Appalachians, with steep gorges, precipitous cliffs, and numerous waterfalls. Nearby are the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Also near are the Pisgah and Nantahala national forests, with oak, beech, walnut, ash, sweet chestnut, and hornbeam. Native laurel blooms in spring along with other common understory trees like dogwood and redbud.

Climate: Hot continental moderated by the altitude. This is especially notable in summer, with markedly less humidity and cooler nights than cities of similar latitude. Winters are typically cold and cloudy, heralded by the first frost around October 8. Early May sees the last frost. Precipitation, mainly mountain rain, is plentiful and well distributed throughout the year.

Summer mildness: 61

Seasonal affect: 19

Winter mildness: 52

Hazard free: 47

	103
	113
	149
	9
	111
	1
	78
	91
	45

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	50	25	59	9.7	4.9	3.4
FEB	54	27	56	9.6	5.4	3.5
MAR	62	34	53	9.4	6.4	2.5
APR	70	41	50	8.9	4.7	0
MAY	77	49	57	7.1	5.9	0
JUN	82	57	59	6.1	5.6	0
JUL	85	61	63	5.8	5.9	0
AUG	84	61	63	5.4	6.5	0
SEP	79	55	64	5.6	5.1	0
OCT	71	42	57	6.8	5.3	0
NOV	62	34	57	8.1	5.4	0
DEC	53	28	59	8.9	5.9	1.5



Brown County, IN

Rank: 197

Location: 39.12 N and 86.15 W at 629 feet 12 miles east of Bloomington and 60 miles south of Indianapolis.

Landscape: Open hills. The terrain is rolling with tumbled hills and narrow valleys in contrast to the flat, glacier-scoured land of northern Indiana. Ridges, knolls, bluffs, caves, and waterfalls are all found in this area. The surrounding forests have been regrowing for decades, and a wide variety of trees, including oak, maple, beech, sycamore, hickory, walnut, and elm cover the hills.

Climate: Continental. Warm summers and cold winters are the norm. Temperatures may vary widely in winter. The first frost arrives before mid-October and it will be the end of April before frost departs. Snowfall is moderate with accumulation in the hills. Summers vary from humid to dry. Spring and fall are long and pleasant. Rainfall is moderate, with occasional thunderstorms in summer.

Summer mildness: 36

Seasonal affect: 6

Winter mildness: 13

Hazard free: 23

	88
	99
	179
	29
	121
	6
	163
	78
	43

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	37	17	76	10.9	2.6	7.6
FEB	41	20	74	10.8	2.6	4.9
MAR	53	30	71	11.7	4.4	4.8
APR	65	40	68	11.2	4.0	0.2
MAY	74	50	69	9.5	4.8	0
JUN	83	59	69	8.5	4.0	0
JUL	86	63	74	7.5	4.5	0
AUG	85	61	76	7.2	3.9	0
SEP	79	54	74	8.0	2.8	0
OCT	67	41	72	8.8	3.3	0
NOV	54	33	76	10.4	3.7	1.7
DEC	41	22	78	10.5	3.5	3.5

Brownsville, TX

Rank: 55

Location: 26.00 N and 97.00 W at 30 feet at the extreme southern tip of Texas on the north bank of the Rio Grande. Across the river is Mexico.

Landscape: Flat plains. Tidal marshlands make up more than half the land toward the coast. Winding through the city, the Rio Grande River makes Brownsville a port with a deepwater channel to the Gulf of Mexico. The fertile valley between the coastal prairie and the western desert flourishes with palm trees and bougainvillea as well as citrus groves.

Climate: Humid subtropical. Citrus fruits, cotton, and warm-weather vegetables thrive. Man-made irrigation adds to the humidity. Summer temperatures are in the lower 90s in the day and middle 70s at night. Gulf breezes help temper the summer heat. Snowbirds—persons fleeing cold northerly weather—flock here to the comparative warmth of normal January minimum temperatures.

Summer mildness: 10

Seasonal affect: 67

Winter mildness: 70

Hazard free: 93

	96
	133
	138
	116
	2
	0
	112
	40
	22

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	69	69	67	11.2	1.6	0
FEB	72	72	63	12.0	1.1	0
MAR	78	78	59	13.3	0.5	0
APR	84	84	59	13.7	1.6	0
MAY	88	88	60	13.0	2.9	0
JUN	91	91	59	11.9	2.7	0
JUL	93	93	55	11.3	1.9	0
AUG	94	94	56	10.3	2.8	0
SEP	90	90	60	9.4	6.0	0
OCT	85	85	59	9.5	2.8	0
NOV	78	78	60	10.6	1.5	0
DEC	72	72	65	10.7	1.3	0

Brunswick, ME

Rank: 192

Location: 44.00 N and 70.23 W at 70 feet on a harbored section of southern Maine's Atlantic Coast some 20 miles northeast of Portland.

Landscape: Plains with high hills. Terrain is rolling, coastal lowland, penetrated extensively by ocean inlets. The forest is primarily evergreen with oak, maple, and other hardwoods throughout.

Climate: Continental, ensuring a strong annual temperature cycle. As a rule, the area sees pleasant summers and falls, cold winters with frequent thaws, and disagreeable muddy springs. Autumn has the greatest number of sunny days. Winters are seldom severe, but they extend deep into what is normally considered springtime, and temperatures well below zero are recorded frequently. The first frost arrives October 15 and the last frost departs April 27.

Summer mildness: 47

Seasonal affect: 5

Winter mildness: 22

Hazard free: 15

	101
	99
	165
	5
	156
	15
	170
	81
	15

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	30	30	68	9.2	3.5	19.0
FEB	33	33	67	9.4	3.3	17.4
MAR	41	41	66	10.0	3.7	13.0
APR	52	52	64	10.0	4.1	3.1
MAY	63	63	67	9.2	3.6	0.2
JUN	73	73	69	8.3	3.4	0
JUL	79	79	70	7.6	3.1	0
AUG	77	77	71	7.5	2.9	0
SEP	69	69	73	7.9	3.1	0
OCT	59	59	72	8.4	3.9	0.2
NOV	47	47	72	8.7	5.2	3.0
DEC	35	35	70	9.0	4.6	14.6

**Burlington, VT****Rank: 194**

Location: 44.29 N and 73.13 W on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain, some 75 miles south of Montreal, Quebec.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The highest peaks of the Adirondacks are visible 35 miles across the lake, and the Green Mountain foothills begin 10 miles to the east. Northern white pine, eastern hemlock, maple, oak, and beech are common trees in the surrounding forest.

Climate: The last freeze here occurs in late May, followed by a short, extremely pleasant summer. Fall is cool; the first freeze hits in late September. Winters are cold, with brief intense cold snaps formed by high-pressure systems moving down from central Canada and Hudson Bay. Lake Champlain moderates the cold somewhat. Burlington is one of the cloudiest cities in the country.

Summer mildness: 62**Seasonal affect:** 7**Winter mildness:** 7**Hazard free:** 8

	58
	101
	206
	6
	157
	28
	120
	75
	22

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	25	8	68	9.7	1.8	18.8
FEB	28	9	68	9.4	1.6	16.8
MAR	39	22	67	9.5	2.2	12.4
APR	54	34	64	9.5	2.8	3.8
MAY	67	45	63	9.0	3.1	0.2
JUN	76	55	66	8.5	3.5	0
JUL	81	60	66	8.0	3.7	0
AUG	78	58	70	7.6	4.1	0
SEP	69	49	74	8.3	3.3	0
OCT	57	39	71	8.8	2.9	0.2
NOV	44	30	72	9.7	3.1	6.6
DEC	30	16	72	9.9	2.4	18.1

Camden, ME**Rank: 175**

Location: 44.12 N and 69.04 W at 33 feet, on Penobscot Bay in the center of Maine's seacoast. Portland is 70 air miles southwest.

Climate: The Atlantic Ocean has a considerable modifying effect on the local climate, resulting in cool summers and winters that are mild for so northerly a location. Winter snows can be heavy, however. Though fall is generally mild, spring comes late and the weather isn't really warm until late June. Early October will bring in the first frost, and the last frost comes May 9.

Summer mildness: 79**Seasonal affect:** 10**Winter mildness:** 16**Hazard free:** 20

	102
	99
	164
	5
	155
	16
	49
	76
	18

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	32	11	61	9.2	3.5	14.4
FEB	35	12	58	9.4	3.3	17.9
MAR	43	23	58	10.0	3.9	10.2
APR	54	32	55	10.0	4.4	2.0
MAY	65	42	58	9.2	4.2	0
JUN	75	51	60	8.2	3.5	0
JUL	80	57	59	7.6	3.1	0
AUG	79	56	59	7.5	3.2	0
SEP	71	48	60	7.8	3.6	0
OCT	60	39	59	8.4	4.3	0
NOV	47	31	62	8.8	5.4	2.0
DEC	36	17	61	9.0	4.9	13.7

★ Carmel-Pebble Beach, CA**Rank: 2**

Location: 36.33 N and 121.55 W at 237 feet, on the Carmel River at the southern point of Monterey Bay, 80 miles south of San Francisco.

Landscape: High mountains. Monterey Bay is a great sweeping coastal indentation on the Pacific Coast. Sandy and rocky beaches verge on tidepools along the shore. Local relief comes mainly from the Diablo and Santa Lucia mountains that rise to the east in high, grassy bluffs. Cypress and pine groves predominate in the mixed evergreen forest.

Climate: Marine, with year-round mild temperatures moving through gradual transitions. Nighttime cooling produces low-stratus clouds, known as California stratus, and early-morning fog. Most afternoons are clear and sunny. Cool temperatures and sea breezes keep the weather mild all year long. There may be a frost around December 8. Precipitation falls only from October to March. Summers are dry and thunderstorms rare.

Summer mildness: 76**Seasonal affect:** 83**Winter mildness:** 99**Hazard free:** 94

	147
	116
	103
	2
	1
	0
	19
	35
	4

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	43	57	4.8	3.5	0.1
FEB	62	45	58	6.3	2.7	0
MAR	62	45	60	6.7	3.2	0
APR	63	46	61	7.6	1.7	0
MAY	64	48	63	7.1	0.4	0
JUN	67	50	66	6.8	0.2	0
JUL	68	52	67	6.5	0.1	0
AUG	69	53	68	6.1	0.1	0
SEP	72	53	67	5.8	0.3	0
OCT	70	51	64	5.5	0.9	0
NOV	65	47	57	5.3	2.8	0
DEC	60	44	55	5.0	2.8	0



★ Carson City–Carson Valley, NV

Rank: 22

Location: 39.10 N and 119.46 W at 4,665 feet, 14 miles east of Lake Tahoe. Reno is 30 miles north.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. Near the eastern foothills and the wind shadow of the Sierra Nevada Range and on the edge of the Great Basin, a major drainage sink for the Rockies. The rivers here flow into landlocked lakes or simply evaporate in the desert. Sagebrush and saltbrush are common in this high country desert. The Sierran forest is mountain hemlock, red fir, lodgepole pine, and western white pine.

Climate: Mediterranean highland characterized by a long, unbroken, dry summer. Winters are cold but short. The first frost arrives by September 21, and the last frost won't depart until May 29. West winds prevail and influence the temperature and humidity. The mountains block much of the moisture from the Pacific that would otherwise fall as rain. At higher elevations, winter precipitation will fall as snow.

Summer mildness: 87

Seasonal affect: 85

Winter mildness: 43

Hazard free: 53

	159
	93
	112
	32
	170
	4
	7
	23
	0

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	47	21	60	5.6	1.9	6.8
FEB	52	24	52	6.2	1.6	4.4
MAR	57	28	44	7.8	1.0	4.7
APR	63	32	36	8.2	0.5	1.0
MAY	72	39	32	8.0	0.6	0
JUN	82	46	29	7.6	0.4	0
JUL	90	50	25	7.0	0.3	0
AUG	88	48	24	6.5	0.3	0
SEP	80	41	30	5.8	0.5	0
OCT	70	32	36	5.4	0.7	0
NOV	55	26	49	5.5	1.4	1.0
DEC	47	21	58	5.2	1.7	6.0

Cedar City, UT

Rank: 161

Location: 37.41 N and 113.04 W at 5,834 feet, located 45 miles northeast of St. George and 220 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.

Landscape: High mountains. On a tableland with Zion National Park to the south and Cedar Breaks National Monument to the east. The terrain is moderately to extremely rugged; elevations vary from 3,000 to over 8,000 feet. Lodgepole pine and aspen are dominant trees.

Climate: Rigorous mountain with cool, pleasant summers and long, cold, snowy winters. The first frost arrives September 20 and the last frost departs May 29. Fall and spring are short transitional seasons here. Thanks to elevation, the climate here contrasts sharply with St. George.

Summer mildness: 49

Seasonal affect: 39

Winter mildness: 32

Hazard free: 28

	137
	107
	122
	62
	134
	5
	26
	107
	36

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	36	15	81	5.7	0.7	7.3
FEB	45	24	77	6.7	0.9	4.2
MAR	56	31	69	8.3	1.4	3.8
APR	66	39	61	9.4	1.1	1.1
MAY	76	48	61	9.6	0.8	0.1
JUN	88	57	61	9.7	0.4	0
JUL	94	64	52	9.3	1.1	0
AUG	91	62	51	9.1	1.5	0
SEP	81	53	60	9.0	1.0	0.1
OCT	68	42	70	7.9	1.0	0.5
NOV	51	29	80	6.8	1.0	2.7
DEC	39	19	83	5.9	0.7	5.3

Cedar Creek Lake, TX

Rank: 99

Location: 32.10 N and 96.04 W at 460 feet, in East Texas, about 70 air miles southeast of Dallas.

Landscape: Plains with hills. The surrounding rolling-to-hilly terrain drains to the Neches River on the east and the Trinity River on the west. The grass is bluestem prairie. The trees are pine, post oak, blackjack oak, and Texas hickory.

Climate: Prairie, with hot summers. Rainfall is about 39 inches annually, evenly distributed, though July and August are somewhat dry. Winters are mild, with temperatures almost always rising above freezing in the daytime, with no zero temperatures on record. Spring and fall are the best seasons. November 20 sees the first frost; the last frost departs March 15. This provides a long growing season, but there are sufficient changes to make the weather interesting. Flowers bloom as late as December and as early as March.

Summer mildness: 23

Seasonal affect: 78

Winter mildness: 45

Hazard free: 53

	138
	98
	130
	102
	44
	0
	11
	50
	45

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	55	33	59	11.2	2.2	1.3
FEB	60	37	59	11.9	2.8	1.0
MAR	68	45	57	12.9	3.1	0.2
APR	77	54	56	12.6	3.6	0
MAY	83	62	60	11.2	5.8	0
JUN	90	69	55	10.6	3.1	0
JUL	94	72	48	9.6	2.1	0
AUG	95	72	49	9.0	1.9	0
SEP	88	66	55	9.4	3.4	0
OCT	79	55	54	9.8	4.2	0
NOV	68	44	57	10.8	2.9	0
DEC	58	36	59	11.0	2.9	0.3

**Chapel Hill–Carrboro, NC****Rank: 102**

Location: 35.54 N and 79.03 W at 503 feet, in central North Carolina, 35 miles west of Raleigh.

Landscape: Irregular plains. The topography of the Piedmont is rolling, with elevations from 200 to 500 feet within a 10-mile radius. Broadleaf deciduous and needle-leaf evergreen trees make up the medium-tall forests. Loblolly and other southern yellow pine mix with hickory, sweet gum, red maple, and winged elm. Low shrubs of dogwood, viburnum, and blueberry are common.

Climate: Subtropical. Because the Blue Ridge is a partial barrier to cold air masses moving eastward from the nation's interior, there are very few days in winter when the temperature falls below 20°F. Tropical air is present during much of summer, bringing warm temperatures and high humidity. Rainfall is well distributed throughout the year. Frost arrives by late October and departs on April 15.

Summer mildness: 50**Seasonal affect:** 40**Winter mildness:** 57**Hazard free:** 50

	112
	106
	147
	39
	91
	0
	34
	74
	44

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	49	26	55	8.5	3.7	2.7
FEB	52	28	52	8.9	3.9	2.4
MAR	62	36	49	9.3	4.2	1.9
APR	71	44	45	9.0	3.2	0
MAY	78	53	54	7.7	4.5	0
JUN	85	61	56	7.0	4.4	0
JUL	89	65	58	6.7	4.1	0
AUG	87	64	60	6.4	4.4	0
SEP	82	57	59	6.8	3.2	0
OCT	72	45	53	7.1	3.5	0
NOV	63	37	52	7.6	3.5	0
DEC	53	29	55	8.0	3.5	0.9

Charleston, SC**Rank: 80**

Location: 32.46 N and 79.56 W at 118 feet, between the Ashley and Cooper rivers on South Carolina's central coast.

Landscape: Flat plains. Generally level with sandy to sandy-loam soil. Because of the low elevation, a portion of the city and nearby coastal islands are vulnerable to tidal flooding. The coastal marshes and interior swamps are dominated by moss-draped oak, sweet and black gums, and bald cypress. Grasses and cattails grow in the more open marsh areas.

Climate: Temperate subtropical modified considerably by the ocean. Summer is warm and humid, but temperatures over 100°F are infrequent; nearly half the year's rain falls during this time. From late September to early November the weather is cool and sunny. Winters are mild; temperatures of 32°F or less are unusual. The first frost appears on November 30; the last frost departs in late February, leading to a warm, windy, and stormy spring.

Summer mildness: 21**Seasonal affect:** 55**Winter mildness:** 76**Hazard free:** 65

	104
	109
	152
	35
	19
	0
	28
	66
	56

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	57	39	57	9.1	3.7	0.1
FEB	60	41	55	9.9	3.5	0.2
MAR	67	48	53	10.0	4.4	0.1
APR	74	56	50	9.7	2.7	0
MAY	81	64	55	8.7	3.5	0
JUN	86	71	60	8.4	5.4	0
JUL	89	74	66	7.9	5.1	0
AUG	88	73	70	7.4	7.1	0
SEP	84	69	67	7.8	4.5	0
OCT	78	59	60	8.1	3.5	0
NOV	70	50	60	8.1	2.9	0
DEC	62	43	59	8.5	3.4	0.3

Charles Town–Shepherdstown, WV**Rank: 140**

Location: 39.17 N and 77.51 W at 513 feet, near the meeting point of Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. Washington, D.C., is 53 miles southeast.

Landscape: Irregular plains. In the midst of rolling farmland and Allegheny Mountain foothills west of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Steep hills and mountains rise up in long ridges, curving north to south. The Shenandoah and Potomac rivers offer both white-water rapids and lazy stretches of calm fishing waters. Continuous dense covering is provided in summer by the Appalachian oak forest dominated by tall, broadleaf trees. Other common trees are beech, birch, hickory, maple, and shrub undergrowth. Pines are a secondary growth.

Climate: Hot continental with warm, humid summers, cool falls, and somewhat cold and snowy winters. Mid-October brings the first frost, while the last frost is late April. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year, snow or rain in season.

Summer mildness: 55**Seasonal affect:** 47**Winter mildness:** 38**Hazard free:** 27

	102
	113
	150
	31
	119
	1
	23
	71
	36

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	39	21	55	9.5	2.4	6.8
FEB	42	23	53	9.7	2.5	7.7
MAR	53	32	51	10.1	3.1	6.1
APR	64	41	50	9.8	3.2	0
MAY	74	50	55	7.9	4.1	0
JUN	83	59	56	6.9	3.4	0
JUL	87	64	58	6.5	3.5	0
AUG	85	62	59	6.1	3.3	0
SEP	78	55	60	6.1	2.8	0
OCT	66	42	56	6.9	3.4	0
NOV	55	34	55	8.3	3.1	1.0
DEC	43	26	55	8.8	2.7	5.6



Charlottesville, VA

Rank: 125

Location: 38.01 N and 78.32 W at 480 feet, in the center of Virginia's Piedmont Plateau. Washington, D.C., is 110 miles northeast.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The Blue Ridge Mountains rise to the west. These and smaller ranges produce a rolling to steep relief. The land is agricultural, with occasional stands of oak, hickory, sweet gum, red maple, loblolly, and shortleaf pine. There is undergrowth of dogwood, viburnum, blueberry, youpon, and numerous woody vines.

Climate: Modified continental, with mild winters and warm, humid summers. The first frost arrives November 4, and the last frost leaves April 7. The mountains produce various steering and blocking effects on storms and air masses. Chesapeake Bay modifies the climate, making it warmer in winter, cooler in summer. Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year, with the maximum in July and August and the minimum in January. Tornadoes and violent storms are rare, but severe thunderstorms occur in July.

Summer mildness: 51

Seasonal affect: 44

Winter mildness: 53

Hazard free: 29

	113
	107
	145
	31
	87
	0
	39
	72
	40

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	43	26	55	8.6	3.2	6.7
FEB	47	28	52	8.6	3.3	6.9
MAR	57	36	50	9.1	3.8	5.1
APR	68	45	47	9.0	3.3	0
MAY	76	54	54	7.9	4.9	0
JUN	83	62	56	6.9	3.7	0
JUL	87	66	59	6.5	4.8	0
AUG	85	65	60	6.3	4.7	0
SEP	79	59	60	6.9	4.1	0
OCT	68	48	55	7.3	4.6	0
NOV	59	39	53	7.9	3.7	1.0
DEC	47	29	56	7.9	3.3	3.6

Chestertown, MD

Rank: 177

Location: 39.13 N and 76.04 W at 35 feet on the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay, 30 miles east of Baltimore and 60 miles northeast of Washington, D.C.

Landscape: The topography is generally flat with unvarying relief. Inland from the Bay the land is suburban and developed agricultural. The remaining naturally occurring vegetation is a typical southeastern mixed forest with broadleaf deciduous and needleleaf evergreen.

Climate: Subtropical with a definite marine influence from the Bay. Summer days are hot and humid and a Bay breeze is welcome. Winters are cloudy, dripping, and chilly. Snowfalls are brief and melt quickly. The first frost arrives November 1 and the last frost departs April 7.

Summer mildness: 28

Seasonal affect: 29

Winter mildness: 31

Hazard free: 36

	105
	109
	151
	31
	97
	0
	146
	70
	27

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	40	28	65	9.7	3.2	5.9
FEB	43	30	63	10.3	3.1	6.5
MAR	53	38	62	10.8	3.7	3.8
APR	64	48	61	10.5	3.2	0.1
MAY	74	58	65	9.1	4.0	0
JUN	83	67	66	8.5	4.4	0
JUL	87	72	67	8.0	3.7	0
AUG	86	71	70	7.8	4.0	0
SEP	79	63	70	8.0	3.6	0
OCT	68	51	69	8.6	3.1	0
NOV	57	42	67	9.2	3.4	1.0
DEC	45	33	66	9.3	3.8	3.5

Chewelah, WA

Rank: 173

Location: 48.17 N and 117.44 W at 1,671 feet in north-east Washington, 50 miles midway between Spokane and the Canadian border.

Landscape: Low mountains. Situated in meadowlands on the floor of the Colville River Valley, the town is surrounded by mountainous benchland. The nearby Selkirk and Huckleberry mountains are forested by a variety of evergreens including cedar, larch, fir, and pine.

Climate: Warm continental. The seasonal temperature shifts are moderated because of mountain protection from wind and severe storms. Summer days are warm with little humidity. The seasons are well defined and include a winter with much snow. The first frost arrives September 6 and the last frost departs June 3.

Summer mildness: 80

Seasonal affect: 5

Winter mildness: 19

Hazard free: 25

	86
	87
	192
	21
	141
	5
	101
	78
	11

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	33	21	82	8.8	2.4	16.2
FEB	41	26	77	9.2	1.9	7.7
MAR	48	30	68	9.6	1.9	4.1
APR	57	35	61	10.0	1.5	0.6
MAY	66	42	59	9.3	2.0	0.1
JUN	75	49	55	9.2	1.5	0
JUL	83	54	47	8.6	0.9	0
AUG	83	54	46	8.2	1.1	0
SEP	72	46	53	8.3	1.1	0
OCT	59	36	64	8.1	1.3	0.4
NOV	41	29	82	8.6	2.7	6.2
DEC	34	22	86	8.6	3.1	15.1

**Coeur d'Alene, ID****Rank: 155**

Location: 47.40 N and 116.46 W at 2,152 feet, on Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho's panhandle. Boise is 400 miles south and Spokane, Washington, 30 miles west.

Landscape: High mountains. The Coeur d'Alene Mountains are a division of the Bitterroot Range of the northern Rockies. They shelter the city with a triangle of forested hills or low mountains for 60 miles along the Montana border from Lake Pend Oreille to the St. Joe River. The Coeur d'Alene National Forest spreads across most of the range. To the north and northwest lies Rathdrum Prairie. Within a 10-mile radius, several mountain peaks rise over 4,000 feet.

Climate: Can be described as temperate, with clear, dry summers and rainy, snowy winters. The first frost shows up by the beginning of October and the last frost leaves by May 11. Though seasonal variation is large, it's less so than most other locations this far north. Precipitation is heaviest from autumn to early spring.

Summer mildness: 82**Seasonal affect:** 23**Winter mildness:** 24**Hazard free:** 24

	86
	87
	192
	27
	139
	3
	47
	66
	11

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	36	23	80	8.8	3.5	24.0
FEB	43	26	78	9.3	2.5	9.9
MAR	50	30	65	9.7	2.3	5.1
APR	60	35	55	10.0	1.7	0
MAY	69	42	51	9.2	2.1	0
JUN	77	49	47	9.2	2.0	0
JUL	85	53	37	8.6	0.9	0
AUG	86	53	40	8.2	1.3	0
SEP	76	45	45	8.3	1.2	0
OCT	62	38	59	8.2	1.6	0
NOV	46	32	75	8.7	3.3	5.0
DEC	37	26	83	8.6	3.7	15.9

Columbia, MO**Rank: 196**

Location: 38.57 N and 92.20 W at 758 feet, in north-central Missouri. Kansas City is 120 miles west and St. Louis is 100 miles east.

Landscape: Open hills. Here are the gently rolling plains of the broad Missouri River Valley meeting just at the point where prairie and eastern forest ecologies come together. The natural vegetation is a transitional intermingling of prairie, groves, and woodlands. Efforts are underway to increase the diversity of native species.

Climate: Hot continental. Winters are moderately cold but often interrupted by days that are almost balmy, with temperatures as high as the 50s and 60s. First frost rolls in by October 30 and rolls out by April 10. Summers are warm, with days topping 100°F, and it often is very humid. Late spring and early summer are the rainiest.

Summer mildness: 25**Seasonal affect:** 25**Winter mildness:** 16**Hazard free:** 14

	104
	91
	170
	40
	114
	6
	123
	65
	52

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	37	19	73	10.8	1.5	5.6
FEB	41	23	72	11.0	1.8	6.5
MAR	53	33	69	12.0	3.2	4.3
APR	66	44	67	11.5	3.8	0.7
MAY	74	53	73	9.1	5.0	0
JUN	83	61	73	8.6	4.3	0
JUL	89	66	72	8.3	3.7	0
AUG	87	64	73	7.9	3.3	0
SEP	79	57	73	8.6	3.9	0
OCT	68	46	71	9.5	3.2	0
NOV	54	35	73	10.6	2.9	1.8
DEC	40	23	75	10.8	2.5	4.2

Conway, AR**Rank: 135**

Location: 35.00 N and 92.00 W at 330 feet near Ozark foothills some 30 miles north of Little Rock.

Landscape: Flat plains. The Ouachita Mountains are visible to the west. The flat lowlands of the Mississippi River Valley lie to the east. This is prime land for farming and raising cattle or poultry.

Climate: Modified four-season continental climate. The area is exposed to all North American air-mass types, but the Gulf of Mexico gives the summer season prolonged periods of warmer and more humid weather. There is a long frost-free growing season of 233 days, during which nearly two-thirds of the normal annual precipitation occurs. Winters are mild, but polar and Arctic outbreaks are not uncommon. Glaze and ice storms, though infrequent, can be severe.

Summer mildness: 2**Seasonal affect:** 37**Winter mildness:** 81**Hazard free:** 51

	119
	100
	147
	73
	57
	0
	142
	72
	53

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	49	49	71	8.5	3.4	2.3
FEB	54	54	70	8.9	3.6	1.4
MAR	64	64	68	9.6	4.9	0.5
APR	73	73	70	9.0	5.5	0
MAY	81	81	73	7.7	5.2	0
JUN	89	89	71	7.2	3.6	0
JUL	92	92	72	6.7	3.6	0
AUG	91	91	73	6.3	3.3	0
SEP	85	85	74	6.7	4.1	0
OCT	75	75	70	6.8	3.8	0
NOV	63	63	71	8.0	5.2	0.2
DEC	53	53	71	8.2	4.8	0.7



Cortez, CO

Rank: 113

Location: 37.21 N and 108.35 W at 6,201 feet in extreme southwestern Colorado. The Four Corners area, where Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, and Arizona meet, is the archaeological center of America.

Landscape: High mountains. McPhee Lake is Colorado's second-largest lake. The Dolores River rises in the San Juan Mountains and cuts through red-rock canyons to the west. Ponderosa pine fills the San Juan National Forest; while at lower elevations there are mixed grasses, chaparral brush, oak-juniper, or piñon-juniper woodland.

Climate: Mountain steppe, with considerable seasonal variety that goes with altitude. Average annual temperature is about 55°F in the lower foothills and 40°F on the upper mountain slopes. During late spring, there is a moisture deficit until the arrival of summer rains, which appear as thunderstorms. Rains also come in early autumn and winter. In the mountains, most precipitation is snow. The first frost arrives October 1 and the last frost departs May 22.

Summer mildness: 86

Seasonal affect: 87

Winter mildness: 10

Hazard free: 7

	168
	110
	87
	30
	177
	10
	5
	33
	34

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	39	11	63	8.0	0.9	12.2
FEB	45	17	55	8.8	0.9	8.2
MAR	51	24	41	10.0	1.4	9.8
APR	61	30	32	10.8	0.9	3.0
MAY	71	38	31	10.5	0.9	0.5
JUN	82	46	25	9.9	0.5	0
JUL	88	54	27	9.0	1.3	0
AUG	85	53	30	8.2	1.5	0
SEP	77	44	33	8.5	1.3	0.1
OCT	66	33	37	8.2	1.5	0.3
NOV	52	23	48	7.9	1.2	4.8
DEC	41	14	60	7.7	1.2	11.8

★ Cottonwood-Verde Valley, AZ

Rank: 26

Location: 34.44 N and 112.00 W at 3,314 feet, 100 miles north of Phoenix and 10 miles east of Prescott.

Landscape: Open high mountains. The Verde River runs through this high valley near the western edge of the Mongollon Rim. Near are many high peaks, canyons, and mesas. Cottonwood trees line the river. Ponderosa pine and other conifers are in the high country, and sagebrush and native grasses cover the valley floor. The shrubs must tolerate alkaline conditions, as soils are poorly drained.

Climate: Mountain steppe, with strong daily and seasonal temperature changes. The usual winter flow of air is from the Pacific Ocean, bringing snows. Cold air masses from Canada sometimes force temperatures well below 0°F higher up in the mountains. Frost arrives October 9 and departs as late as May 17. Moisture-bearing winds from the southeast Gulf bring brief summer rains from July to September.

Summer mildness: 67

Seasonal affect: 88

Winter mildness: 62

Hazard free: 45

	212
	84
	69
	32
	150
	0
	11
	39
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	59	25	45	5.3	1.6	4.5
FEB	63	28	40	5.9	1.5	3.5
MAR	66	31	36	6.7	1.8	6.8
APR	74	35	25	7.0	0.7	2.0
MAY	84	42	20	7.1	0.4	0
JUN	94	49	18	6.8	0.2	0
JUL	98	61	28	7.2	1.6	0
AUG	95	61	33	6.7	2.4	0
SEP	90	52	34	6.3	1.5	0
OCT	80	40	34	5.8	1.0	0
NOV	68	30	37	5.4	1.6	1.0
DEC	60	26	46	5.1	1.5	5.1

Crossville, TN

Rank: 144

Location: 35.57 N and 85.50 W at 1,863 feet, on the Cumberland Plateau near the center of the state. Knoxville is 62 miles east and Nashville is 110 miles west.

Landscape: Open low mountains. High, rolling foothills of the Appalachians are on the eastern horizon. This is a timberland plateau of the eastern deciduous forest. Common trees are hickory, oak, beech, birch, walnut, and maple. These tall broadleaf trees provide dense foliage during summer and are bare in winter. Low shrubs develop in spring.

Climate: Hot continental climate characterized by long, mild summers and cool winters. Daily and seasonal temperature changes aren't dramatic. The first frost will come by October 15, and the last frost is April 26. Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year.

Summer mildness: 62

Seasonal affect: 14

Winter mildness: 56

Hazard free: 33

	112
	96
	157
	10
	110
	4
	34
	90
	51

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	42	21	63	4.8	5.2	5.2
FEB	46	24	62	5.0	4.8	5.2
MAR	56	34	59	5.3	6.2	2.7
APR	65	43	55	5.7	5.0	0
MAY	73	50	60	4.5	5.6	0
JUN	80	58	61	4.2	4.4	0
JUL	83	62	63	3.9	5.5	0
AUG	83	60	63	3.7	3.9	0
SEP	77	55	63	3.8	4.2	0
OCT	67	42	63	3.6	3.7	0
NOV	56	35	64	4.1	5.1	1.0
DEC	46	26	67	4.5	5.7	2.3

**Dahlonega, GA****Rank: 109**

Location: 34.00 N and 84.00 W at 1,390 feet in the northern Georgia foothills at the edge of the Chattahoochee National Forest. Atlanta is 100 miles southwest.

Landscape: Low mountains. To the north, there are mountains above 3,000 feet. Chattahoochee National Forest is a mixed deciduous forest, with oak, beech, birch, walnut, maple, ash, and hornbeam. Pines readily develop as second growth where there has been logging or fire.

Climate: Mountains have marked influences on summer heat, producing warm days and cool nights. Winters are cold but not severe. The contrast of valley and hill exposures results in wide variations in winter low temperatures. Frost appears by the end of October and departs by the end of April. Midway on mountain slopes, temperatures remain warmer during winter nights than the valley floor. Spring is changeable and sometimes stormy. Fall is clear and sunny, with chilly nights.

Summer mildness: 63**Seasonal affect:** 21**Winter mildness:** 46**Hazard free:** 62

	105
	114
	147
	5
	90
	0
	80
	92
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	48	28	65	9.7	6.4	0.4
FEB	52	30	61	9.6	6.1	0.6
MAR	61	37	56	9.4	7.4	0.4
APR	70	44	53	8.9	5.4	0
MAY	77	52	60	7.1	6.8	0
JUN	83	60	61	6.1	5.4	0
JUL	86	64	63	5.8	5.8	0
AUG	85	64	63	5.4	6.1	0
SEP	79	58	62	5.6	5.7	0
OCT	70	46	57	6.8	5.1	0
NOV	61	38	60	8.1	5.9	0
DEC	52	31	66	8.9	6.7	0.2

Dare Outer Banks, NC**Rank: 156**

Location: 35.54 N and 75.40 W at 5 feet, on North Carolina's northeast coast, 60 miles south of Virginia Beach.

Landscape: Flat plains. Principally barrier islands with white-sand beaches, dunes, wetland habitats, and a hardwood forest of Atlantic white cedar and bald cypress, with many types of wildflowers and shrubs. Nags Head Woods is a biologically diverse maritime forest, one of the best remaining examples of mid-Atlantic maritime forest. Cape Hatteras National Seashore, extending 75 miles along the coast, protects more than 30,000 acres.

Climate: Subtropical, with humid, hot summers and mild winters. Frost arrives as late as November 4 and departs as early as April 6. January and February nights can be freezing due to the wind chill. Rain falls throughout the year. Summer brings heavy thunderstorms. Occasional tropical storms from the Atlantic may strike this coastal location.

Summer mildness: 26**Seasonal affect:** 33**Winter mildness:** 39**Hazard free:** 55

	108
	101
	156
	32
	67
	0
	15
	76
	42

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	52	34	68	12.1	4.3	0.4
FEB	54	36	65	12.3	3.8	0.6
MAR	61	42	63	12.0	4.2	0.5
APR	70	50	59	11.8	3.4	0
MAY	77	59	65	10.9	4.4	0
JUN	84	67	68	10.7	4.6	0
JUL	87	71	70	10.0	5.5	0
AUG	87	71	69	9.5	5.8	0
SEP	82	66	67	10.5	5.0	0
OCT	72	56	65	11.1	3.9	0
NOV	64	47	64	11.0	3.6	0
DEC	56	39	66	11.5	3.6	0.6

Delta County, CO**Rank: 82**

Location: The weather station is Delta, the county seat, 38.44 N and 108.04 W at 4,953 feet on Colorado's western slope. Grand Junction is 45 miles northwest.

Landscape: High mountains. Within the sage desert and shortgrass prairie of the Colorado Plateau. Ranchland and orchards mark the gently rolling lowland. Lakes and streams are fed from mountain snows. The Gunnison and Uncompahgre rivers flow through steep canyons, where sagebrush and cactus are found. Pine, spruce, and aspen forests cover the subalpine areas.

Climate: Desert-steppe brings varied seasonal and daily temperature changes. Summers are dry and comfortable due to the high altitude. Winters are cold with moderate snow cover in the elevations through May. First frost is October 5; last frost is May 17. Humidity is low, and precipitation is scant except for brief mountain thunderstorms.

Summer mildness: 85**Seasonal affect:** 81**Winter mildness:** 29**Hazard free:** 21

	137
	107
	121
	23
	165
	4
	8
	34
	35

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	38	15	64	5.6	0.9	10.5
FEB	44	20	52	6.7	0.8	7.9
MAR	52	27	43	8.4	1.2	7.0
APR	62	33	33	9.5	0.9	2.4
MAY	72	41	32	9.6	1.1	0.6
JUN	83	50	34	9.7	0.8	0
JUL	88	56	28	9.3	1.0	0
AUG	85	54	30	9.0	1.2	0
SEP	77	46	33	8.9	1.3	0
OCT	65	36	38	7.9	1.5	0.9
NOV	50	26	51	6.7	1.1	4.9
DEC	40	17	62	5.9	1.1	9.2



Door Peninsula, WI

Rank: 161

Location: The weather station is Sturgeon Bay, 44.51 N and 87.23 W at 660 feet on Wisconsin's Door Peninsula between Green Bay and Lake Michigan. The site is 180 miles northeast of Madison.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Characterized by rolling woodlands, limestone bluffs, and 250 miles of rocky shoreline and sandy beaches. Glacier effects predominate. The woods contain northern hardwoods of maple, oak, beech, and birch mixed with pine, eastern hemlock, and eastern red cedar.

Climate: Continental, and largely influenced by Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. This is certainly a four-season climate that is relatively temperate and extends the growing season. Winters are moderately long and can be severe. First frost snaps in by October 8; the last frost departs May 17. Snow falls early and lasts late. Summers are mild, with cool evenings and nights. Springs and autumns are all too short.

Summer mildness: 91

Seasonal affect: 35

Winter mildness: 5

Hazard free: 18

	87
	102
	176
	3
	159
	19
	24
	63
	33

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	25	9	72	11.0	1.5	10.4
FEB	28	11	69	10.6	1.1	7.2
MAR	38	22	64	10.9	2.1	8.0
APR	52	33	55	11.3	2.7	2.0
MAY	65	42	50	10.2	3.1	0
JUN	74	51	55	9.2	3.3	0
JUL	80	58	54	8.2	3.4	0
AUG	77	57	60	8.0	3.4	0
SEP	69	50	63	9.0	3.9	0
OCT	57	40	65	9.9	2.7	0
NOV	43	30	73	11.0	2.5	2.0
DEC	30	17	77	10.7	1.9	9.5

Driggs, ID

Rank: 165

Location: 43.43 N and 111.06 W at 6,116 feet in eastern Idaho. Wyoming and the Teton Mountains are immediately east.

Landscape: High mountains. Teton Valley is located on the west side of the famous Tetons and is characterized by rolling plains and tablelands of moderate relief in a broad belt that slopes gradually eastward.

Climate: Temperate semiarid steppe regime with average annual temperatures ranging from 35°F to 45°F in most of the region, but reaching 50°F in the lower valleys. The prevailing west winds and the general north-south orientation of the mountain ranges influence weather events. Summer and early fall are ideal; winter is long, cold, and snowy. Frost occurs nearly year-round.

Summer mildness: 97

Seasonal affect: 41

Winter mildness: 1

Hazard free: 5

	125
	87
	153
	5
	255
	40
	50
	49
	25

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	29	7	60	13.0	1.5	20.8
FEB	35	10	59	12.2	1.0	16.2
MAR	41	17	57	11.4	1.1	10.0
APR	52	26	55	11.5	1.3	4.3
MAY	63	33	56	10.7	2.2	0.6
JUN	72	41	55	10.1	1.9	0
JUL	81	47	48	9.5	1.3	0
AUG	80	45	46	9.5	1.2	0
SEP	70	36	51	10.2	1.5	0
OCT	59	27	52	11.0	1.2	0.7
NOV	41	19	59	12.1	1.3	8.3
DEC	31	8	60	13.1	1.4	19.3

Durango, CO

Rank: 96

Location: 37.16 N and 107.52 W at 6,523 feet, in Colorado's Four Corners area, 250 air miles southwest of Denver.

Landscape: High mountains. High in the Animas River Valley surrounded by red bluffs. The sharply uplifted San Juan Mountains provide dramatic relief. Much of the area is within the San Juan National Forest, a pine and aspen woods with a subalpine growth of scrub oak and grasses.

Climate: Semiarid continental, which causes definite seasonal temperature variations. Daily temperature changes are notable throughout the year as mountain nights chill considerably. Warm, dry summers blend into short, cool, dry falls. Mid-September, the first frost jacks into the area; June 4, the last frost bites. Winters are long and extremely snowy. Due to deep snow in the mountains, rivers and reservoirs stay relatively full in summer, though city water is frequently rationed.

Summer mildness: 93

Seasonal affect: 80

Winter mildness: 20

Hazard free: 8

	137
	107
	121
	18
	211
	11
	8
	44
	35

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	40	10	63	5.6	1.6	20.4
FEB	46	16	55	6.7	1.4	12.6
MAR	53	22	41	8.4	1.7	12.1
APR	62	29	32	9.5	1.2	4.0
MAY	71	36	31	9.6	1.1	0
JUN	82	42	25	9.7	0.7	0
JUL	87	51	27	9.3	1.8	0
AUG	84	49	30	9.0	2.4	0
SEP	76	41	33	8.9	1.9	0
OCT	66	31	37	7.9	2.0	0
NOV	52	22	48	6.7	1.7	6.0
DEC	41	13	60	5.9	1.8	17.4

**Eagle River–Woodruff, WI****Rank: 168**

Location: 45.55 N and 89.14 W at 1,647 feet, near where Michigan's Upper Peninsula meets northern Wisconsin. Green Bay is 140 miles southeast.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Generally level. The entire area was once part of a great, dense white pine forest but is now covered with second growth. Within a 20-mile radius of the town are more than 200 lakes, some with identical names.

Climate: Continental, and largely determined by the movement and interaction of large air masses. Weather changes can be expected every few days in winter and spring. Winters are long and cold with an average of 39 days when the temperature drops below 0°F. Summer days are warm and pleasant, with comfortably cool nights. Spring and fall are short, with rapid transition from winter to summer and vice versa. First frost is in by September 23; last frost out May 19.

Summer mildness: 92**Seasonal affect:** 34**Winter mildness:** 2**Hazard free:** 12

	87
	102
	176
	3
	181
	44
	24
	63
	33

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	21	-1	72	11.0	1.1	10.6
FEB	26	2	69	10.6	0.8	8.3
MAR	38	15	64	10.9	1.5	9.0
APR	53	29	55	11.3	2.4	2.0
MAY	67	41	50	10.2	3.2	0
JUN	75	50	55	9.2	3.8	0
JUL	80	56	54	8.2	3.4	0
AUG	77	53	60	8.0	4.3	0
SEP	67	45	63	9.0	4.3	0
OCT	55	35	65	9.9	2.6	0
NOV	39	22	73	11.0	1.9	4.0
DEC	25	6	77	10.7	1.4	11.1

East End Long Island, NY**Rank: 148**

Location: 40.58 N and 72.11 W at 55 feet, at the extreme tip of Long Island. New York City is 120 miles west.

Landscape: Irregular plains. The eastern end of Long Island, where the Atlantic Ocean meets Long Island Sound, is divided into two narrow peninsulas by four bays. The surrounding land is suburban and agricultural. Small understory trees and shrubs make up the lower growth of the woodlands. Common specimen trees are oak, beech, birch, hickory, tulip tree, and sweet chestnut.

Climate: Hot continental, with fewer seasonal and daily temperature fluctuations where tempered by the effects of the surrounding salt water. Precipitation is distributed throughout the year. Summers have hot and humid stretches but are generally warm and dry. Winters can be cold with icy rain. Snowfall is light and lasts but a little while. Frost extends from October 21 to April 27, leaving a modest growing season.

Summer mildness: 64**Seasonal affect:** 33**Winter mildness:** 25**Hazard free:** 35

	100
	118
	148
	7
	121
	2
	39
	74
	28

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	39	21	62	9.7	3.9	7.2
FEB	40	22	61	10.1	3.7	4.4
MAR	49	30	56	10.5	4.2	3.4
APR	59	38	56	10.0	4.3	0
MAY	69	47	58	9.0	4.0	0
JUN	78	57	58	8.5	4.0	0
JUL	83	63	62	7.5	3.5	0
AUG	82	62	61	7.4	4.3	0
SEP	76	55	61	7.5	3.4	0
OCT	65	44	59	8.3	3.6	0
NOV	55	36	60	9.9	4.4	1.0
DEC	43	26	58	9.4	4.3	3.9

Easton–St. Michaels, MD**Rank: 127**

Location: 38.46 N and 76.04 W at 38 feet in the tidewater region along the eastern shore of Chesapeake Bay near the head of the Tred Avon River. Baltimore is 55 miles northwest by bridge.

Landscape: Flat plains. There's precious little relief in the long, low hills cut by streams and inlets from the Bay. Inland, the land is developed agricultural fields. The native vegetation is a typical southeastern mixed forest with broadleaf deciduous and needleleaf evergreen trees. In the towns are holly and magnolias.

Climate: Subtropical with a definite marine influence. Summers are hot and humid though often lifted somewhat by a bay breeze. Some winters can be freezing and snowy but normally are chilly and rainy. The first frost rolls in at the end of October, and the last one appears 3 weeks into spring. Snow is minimal and is quickly gone.

Summer mildness: 59**Seasonal affect:** 40**Winter mildness:** 35**Hazard free:** 42

	107
	108
	150
	27
	85
	0
	26
	73
	28

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	43	26	57	9.7	3.6	4.5
FEB	46	28	54	10.3	3.2	5.3
MAR	56	36	50	10.9	3.9	2.6
APR	66	44	49	10.6	3.3	0
MAY	76	54	53	9.2	4.1	0
JUN	84	63	52	8.5	3.5	0
JUL	88	67	52	8.0	4.4	0
AUG	86	66	56	7.8	4.5	0
SEP	81	60	55	8.0	3.4	0
OCT	70	48	55	8.7	3.0	0
NOV	60	40	55	9.3	3.4	0
DEC	49	31	57	9.3	3.6	2.0



East Stroudsburg, PA

Rank: 181

Location: 41.05 N and 75.10 W at 520 feet at the foot of Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. The Delaware River is just east and on the opposite bank is New Jersey.

Landscape: Low mountains. There is a winter deciduous forest dominated by tall broadleaf trees that provide a dense, continuous canopy in summer and shed their leaves completely in winter. Lower layers of small trees and shrubs develop weakly. In spring, a luxuriant ground cover of herbs quickly develops.

Climate: The continental climatic regime here ensures a strong annual temperature cycle, with cold winters and warm summers. Average annual temperatures range from 40°F to 60°F. There is year-round precipitation, averaging from 35 to 60 inches per year. The first frost arrives September 30 and the last frost departs May 13.

Summer mildness: 47

Seasonal affect: 22

Winter mildness: 27

Hazard free: 25

	93
	111
	161
	15
	123
	1
	187
	70
	28

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	34	34	58	10.7	3.2	8.4
FEB	38	38	57	10.8	3.0	8.9
MAR	49	49	53	11.0	3.3	5.8
APR	60	60	49	10.5	3.5	0.7
MAY	71	71	49	8.8	4.2	0
JUN	80	80	55	8.1	3.8	0
JUL	85	85	55	7.6	4.1	0
AUG	82	82	57	7.6	4.3	0
SEP	75	75	59	8.1	3.9	0
OCT	64	64	59	8.9	2.9	0.1
NOV	52	52	60	9.9	3.9	1.3
DEC	39	39	62	10.4	3.5	6.1

Edenton, NC

Rank: 126

Location: 36.03 N and 76.36 W at 5 feet, on Albemarle Sound in North Carolina's northeast coastal area. Raleigh is 120 miles west and Virginia Beach, Virginia, is 65 miles north.

Landscape: Flat plains. At the mouth of the Chowan River on Albemarle Sound west of Kitty Hawk and the Barrier Islands. The woods are evergreens, oak, bald cypress, laurel, and magnolia mixed with loblolly and slash pine. The native undergrowth consists of typical coastal plain plants of fern, and other herbaceous plants, small palms, and shrubs.

Climate: Subtropical, with humid, hot, coastal plain summers. Winters are mild but with some freezing nights. Frost rolls in late around November 10 and leaves early by March 24. Snow is negligible, but rain falls throughout the year. Spring and summer can bring heavy thunderstorms, and occasional tropical storms from the Atlantic may reach this location.

Summer mildness: 43

Seasonal affect: 46

Winter mildness: 40

Hazard free: 48

	106
	107
	152
	31
	52
	0
	20
	73
	42

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	52	32	60	12.1	4.2	1.7
FEB	55	34	58	12.3	3.8	2.2
MAR	63	41	56	12.0	4.0	1.1
APR	72	49	52	11.8	3.3	0
MAY	79	58	58	10.9	4.5	0
JUN	85	66	58	10.7	4.5	0
JUL	88	70	61	10.0	5.4	0
AUG	87	70	62	9.5	5.4	0
SEP	82	64	62	10.5	4.3	0
OCT	73	53	61	11.1	3.2	0
NOV	65	44	58	11.0	2.8	0
DEC	56	36	60	11.5	3.2	0.5

Eugene, OR

Rank: 99

Location: 44.00 N and 123.00 W at 370 feet at the southern end of the fertile Willamette Valley and bounded by mountain ranges. The Cascades lie to the east and the Coastal Ranges to the west. Portland is 110 miles north.

Landscape: High mountains. The valley widens and levels out to the north, while hills of the rolling, wooded Coastal Ranges begin about 5 miles west of the airport and rise to between 1,500 feet and 2,000 feet midway between the city and Pacific Ocean, 60 miles to the west. The Cascades, 75 miles east, reach heights of 10,000 feet.

Climate: Mild maritime climate. The sheltering ranges and the proximity of the ocean contribute to the extremely mild climate. Temperatures below 20°F occur only five times a year. The temperature rarely reaches the mid-90s. Seasonal change is gradual. The first frost arrives October 16 and the last frost departs May 17.

Summer mildness: 37

Seasonal affect: 3

Winter mildness: 82

Hazard free: 77

	75
	82
	209
	15
	54
	0
	137
	90
	2

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	46	46	86	7.9	7.9	3.7
FEB	51	51	82	7.8	5.6	0.8
MAR	56	56	78	8.3	5.5	0.5
APR	61	61	75	7.8	3.1	0
MAY	67	67	73	7.4	2.2	0
JUN	74	74	70	7.5	1.4	0
JUL	82	82	63	8.0	0.5	0
AUG	82	82	64	7.6	1.1	0
SEP	76	76	66	7.4	1.7	0
OCT	65	65	78	6.7	3.4	0
NOV	52	52	86	7.4	8.3	0.3
DEC	46	46	89	7.6	8.6	1.3

**Eureka Springs, AR****Rank: 145**

Location: 36.23 N and 93.44 W at 1,420 feet in the Ozark Mountains near the Arkansas and Missouri border, 33 miles northeast of Fayetteville.

Landscape: High hills. Encircled by two great lakes and two scenic rivers. The country is rugged and wooded, with farms small and scattered. A dense deciduous forest of oak and hickory surrounds the area. In spring, a luxurious low layer of herbs develops, but this is arrested when the trees leaf out and shade the ground.

Climate: Hot continental, with warm summers due to the elevation and mild winters thanks to the latitude. Summer can vary from warm and humid maritime to dry continental. Winter occasionally produces dangerous ice storms. The first frost arrives October 25 and the last frost departs April 12.

Summer mildness: 42**Seasonal affect:** 59**Winter mildness:** 27**Hazard free:** 33

	127
	103
	136
	56
	105
	1
	92
	62
	50

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	46	23	60	10.3	2.0	3.0
FEB	51	27	60	10.8	2.8	3.9
MAR	61	37	56	12.1	4.1	2.4
APR	72	47	55	11.9	4.2	0
MAY	78	55	59	10.6	4.9	0
JUN	85	63	59	10.0	4.4	0
JUL	91	68	56	9.4	3.3	0
AUG	90	66	54	8.9	3.8	0
SEP	82	59	58	9.1	4.1	0
OCT	72	47	54	9.7	3.7	0
NOV	60	37	59	10.3	3.8	1.0
DEC	49	28	63	10.2	3.4	1.0

Fairhope-Gulf Shores, AL**Rank: 110**

Location: 30.31 N and 87.54 W at 122 feet, 35 miles south of Mobile on the Gulf of Mexico near the entrance to Mobile Bay.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Gulf coastal plain where ecologies appear to be flat plains, but contain coastal lagoons, sandy beaches, swampy lowlands, and salt marshes to typical southern forests of loblolly, shortleaf, and pond pines, with some sweet gum and oaks. Local relief ranges from sea level to less than 250 feet inland.

Climate: Subtropical. Although destructive hurricanes from the West Indies and the Gulf of Mexico are extremely infrequent, this seems due more to chance than to location. The normal annual rainfall amount is one of the highest in the continental United States. It's evenly distributed throughout the year, with a slight maximum at the height of the summer thunderstorm season. First frost arrives by Thanksgiving; last frost departs February 25. This means a long growing season, enough for citrus.

Summer mildness: 23**Seasonal affect:** 34**Winter mildness:** 67**Hazard free:** 67

	103
	116
	146
	74
	21
	0
	41
	80
	74

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	59	39	61	10.4	5.0	0.1
FEB	63	41	56	10.7	6.1	0.2
MAR	70	49	55	10.9	6.1	0
APR	77	56	52	10.2	4.1	0
MAY	83	63	54	8.9	5.4	0
JUN	89	70	55	7.7	6.6	0
JUL	90	72	60	7.0	7.3	0
AUG	89	72	61	6.8	6.7	0
SEP	87	68	59	7.9	5.7	0
OCT	79	56	52	8.2	3.2	0
NOV	70	49	57	9.3	4.2	0
DEC	62	42	61	10.1	4.9	0

Fairplay, CO**Rank: 163**

Location: 39.00 N and 106.00 W at 10,010 feet. This is one of the highest incorporated places in the United States. It sits at the northern end of Colorado's South Park, a huge grassland basin.

Landscape: High mountains. Directly below town is the subalpine zone dominated by Engelmann spruce and sub-alpine fir. Farther below, tall ponderosa pine predominates on lower, drier, more exposed slopes, and taller Douglas fir predominates in higher, moister, more sheltered areas.

Climate: Temperate semiarid steppe regime with average annual temperatures ranging from 35°F to 45°F in most of the region, but reaching 50°F in the lower valleys. Spring and fall are short transitions. Summer is ideal. Winter is long, snowy, and cold, and is influenced by prevailing west winds and the general north-south orientation of the mountain ranges. The first frost arrives September 18 and the last frost departs June 1.

Summer mildness: 100**Seasonal affect:** 45**Winter mildness:** 2**Hazard free:** 1

	113
	113
	139
	0
	212
	30
	10
	81
	31

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	27	-1	71	11.5	1.4	23.0
FEB	31	1	61	10.7	1.2	14.0
MAR	34	8	50	11.1	1.6	11.0
APR	44	17	43	11.0	1.5	4.0
MAY	55	25	40	9.7	1.6	1.0
JUN	65	33	32	8.9	1.6	0
JUL	73	37	35	8.2	2.7	0
AUG	71	37	38	7.9	2.5	0
SEP	63	30	39	8.3	1.5	1.0
OCT	52	21	46	9.4	1.2	2.0
NOV	38	10	59	10.5	1.3	8.0
DEC	30	3	69	10.7	1.5	16.0

**Fayetteville, AR****Rank: 151**

Location: 36.03 N and 94.09 W at 1,334 feet, in north-west Arkansas, 30 miles from the Oklahoma line and 40 miles south of Missouri. Little Rock is 170 miles south-east.

Landscape: High hills. On the White River in the Boston Mountains. Elevations near here reach over 2,000 feet in the highest parts of the Ozark Plateau. This is rugged, wooded mountain country. Broadleaf deciduous oak and hickory predominate, with lower layers of scattered small trees and shrubs, especially redbud and dogwood.

Climate: Modified continental, with hot, humid summers and briefer winters than other locations at this latitude. Winter to winter can vary from warm and humid maritime to cold and dry continental but are relatively free from climatic extremes. Mid-October sees the first frost, and late April marks the last frost. Snowfalls are minimal, but precipitation in January and February can be dangerous icy rain.

Summer mildness: 49
Winter mildness: 23

Seasonal affect: 56
Hazard free: 29

	116
	97
	153
	44
	103
	1
	20
	66
	56

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	23	60	11.7	1.8	3.0
FEB	50	27	60	11.9	2.5	3.9
MAR	59	37	56	12.9	3.9	2.4
APR	69	47	55	12.2	4.3	0
MAY	76	55	59	10.4	5.0	0
JUN	84	63	59	9.6	5.0	0
JUL	89	68	56	8.5	2.9	0
AUG	88	66	54	8.6	3.6	0
SEP	81	59	58	9.3	4.5	0
OCT	71	47	54	10.1	3.8	0
NOV	59	37	59	11.3	3.7	1.0
DEC	49	28	63	11.6	3.1	1.4

Flagstaff, AZ**Rank: 80**

Location: 35.08 N and 111.40 W, at 7,000 feet in north-central Arizona, 80 miles south of the Grand Canyon and 120 miles north-northeast of Phoenix.

Landscape: Tablelands, with very high relief. Part the Colorado Plateau, a series of generally level plateaus mostly separated by steep-sided chasms. There is little arable land. Near here is Arizona's highest point, 12,633-foot Humphreys Peak in the San Francisco Mountains. The city sits on the northern border of the Prescott National Forest.

Climate: Vigorous, with cool to cold winters and with warm summers. Frost arrives by October 21 and departs May 14. Flagstaff gets about 23 inches of precipitation yearly, and the surrounding mountains and plateaus receive somewhat more moisture, 20 to 40 inches, with up to 5 feet of snow falling in peak areas.

Summer mildness: 96
Winter mildness: 35

Seasonal affect: 84
Hazard free: 2

	162
	102
	101
	1
	210
	8
	12
	39
	38

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	42	15	63	6.8	2.0	20.7
FEB	45	18	60	6.7	2.1	18.3
MAR	49	21	57	7.2	2.6	22.3
APR	58	27	49	7.6	1.5	9.5
MAY	67	33	46	7.3	0.7	1.8
JUN	78	41	38	6.9	0.4	0
JUL	82	51	53	5.5	2.8	0
AUG	79	49	60	5.1	2.8	0
SEP	73	41	55	5.7	2.0	0.1
OCT	63	31	54	5.8	1.6	2.0
NOV	51	22	57	6.8	2.0	10.2
DEC	43	16	62	6.7	2.4	15.9

Fort Collins-Loveland, CO**Rank: 115**

Location: 40.35 N and 105.05 W at 5,003 feet, on the Cache la Poudre River in the eastern foothills of the Rockies' Front Range, 55 miles north of Denver.

Landscape: High mountains. Lies near some of the most spectacular mountain terrain in the country. Steep cliffs, high waterfalls, and forested mountain slopes cut by swift rivers are found to the west. Thirty miles east, the landscape settles into grassland prairies of the Great Plains.

Climate: Near the center of the continent, Fort Collins and Loveland are removed from any major source of airborne moisture and are further shielded from rainfall by the high Rockies to the west. In winter, cold air from Canada may bring snow and subfreezing temperatures at night. Frost arrives October 1 and departs by early May. In summer, hot air from the desert southwest brings daytime temperatures of 90°F. However, felt heat is low because of dryness.

Summer mildness: 81
Winter mildness: 18

Seasonal affect: 82
Hazard free: 6

	115
	130
	120
	22
	167
	11
	10
	33
	42

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	41	14	46	8.7	0.4	7.3
FEB	46	19	44	8.9	0.4	6.3
MAR	52	25	41	9.7	1.4	12.0
APR	61	34	38	10.1	1.8	6.0
MAY	70	43	38	9.4	2.7	1.0
JUN	80	52	37	8.9	1.9	0
JUL	86	57	35	8.3	1.8	0
AUG	83	55	35	8.0	1.3	0
SEP	75	46	35	8.0	1.3	0
OCT	64	35	37	7.9	1.0	2.0
NOV	51	24	45	8.3	0.7	6.0
DEC	42	16	46	8.5	0.5	6.7



★ Fort Myers–Cape Coral, FL

Rank: 20

Location: 26.38 N and 81.52 W at 10 feet, on the broad Caloosahatchee River in southwestern Florida, 120 miles south of Tampa.

Landscape: Flat plains. This area is the western terminus of the Okeechobee Waterway, linking the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, about 15 miles away. The land is level and low. The climax growth of the coastal plain in this area north of the Everglades is evergreen-oak and magnolia. Spanish moss trails from Evangeline oak and bald cypress. Tree ferns, small palms, and shrubs make up the lower layer.

Climate: Subtropical. Summer and winter temperature extremes are checked by the influence of the Gulf. Mild winters have many bright, warm days. Nights are moderately cool. Rainfall averages more than 50 inches annually, two-thirds of this coming daily between June and September. Most rain falls as late-afternoon or early-evening thunderstorms, bringing relief from the heat.

Summer mildness: 11

Seasonal affect: 73

Winter mildness: 97

Hazard free: 88

	100
	168
	98
	90° 101
	32° 0
	0° 0
	21
	72
	93

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	74	53	57	8.4	1.8	0
FEB	75	54	55	9.0	2.2	0
MAR	80	59	52	9.4	3.1	0
APR	84	62	47	8.9	1.1	0
MAY	89	68	50	8.1	3.9	0
JUN	90	73	58	7.3	9.5	0
JUL	91	75	59	6.7	8.3	0
AUG	91	75	60	6.8	9.7	0
SEP	90	74	61	7.6	7.8	0
OCT	86	69	56	8.5	2.9	0
NOV	81	61	56	8.2	1.6	0
DEC	76	55	56	8.0	1.5	0

Fredericksburg, TX

Rank: 66

Location: 30.16 N and 98.52 W at 1,702 feet, on the Pedernales River in central Texas. Austin is 80 miles east and San Antonio is 80 miles southeast.

Landscape: Plains with high hills. In a high, green valley where a transition from rich Blacklands to Edwards Plateau foothills occurs. Encircled by hills with outcroppings of a large, dissected plateau, formed of thick layers of limestone and other sedimentary rocks lifted about 2,000 feet along the Balcones Escarpment. Erosion carved the uplifted areas into hilly, rocky terrain. Among the peach orchards and many wineries are native vegetation stands of cedar, juniper, oak, and prairie grasses.

Climate: Prairie. Summer days are hot but nights pleasantly cool. Winters are mild with few, brief cold spells. Fall arrives around mid-October though the first frost waits until November 11. The last frost leaves March 24. Snow is negligible. Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year. Humidity is generally comfortable.

Summer mildness: 34

Seasonal affect: 77

Winter mildness: 56

Hazard free: 64

	117
	115
	134
	90° 97
	32° 39
	0° 0
	23
	43
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	35	60	9.7	1.3	0.2
FEB	64	39	59	10.2	1.8	0.7
MAR	72	47	56	10.8	1.4	0.1
APR	79	55	57	10.5	2.5	0
MAY	84	62	60	9.6	4.2	0
JUN	89	67	56	9.1	3.6	0
JUL	93	69	51	8.3	2.2	0
AUG	93	68	50	7.9	2.7	0
SEP	87	64	55	7.9	3.6	0
OCT	79	55	55	8.1	3.6	0
NOV	69	46	58	9.0	1.9	0
DEC	62	38	59	9.2	1.3	0.1

Fredericksburg–Spotsylvania, VA

Rank: 138

Location: 38.18 N and 77.27 W at 60 feet, 42 miles south of Washington, D.C., and 40 miles north of Richmond.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Rolling hill country at the head of navigation of the Rappahannock River in northeastern Virginia. The woods are a southeastern mixed forest of medium-tall to tall broadleaf deciduous oak, hickory, sweet gum, red maple, and winged elm, together with loblolly and shortleaf pine. The undergrowth is dogwood, viburnum, blueberry, youpon, and numerous woody vines.

Climate: Modified continental, with cool winters and warm, humid summers. The Blue Ridge Mountains west of here produce steering and blocking effects on storms and air masses. Chesapeake Bay further modifies the climate, making it warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The first frost rolls in on October 15, and the last frost departs April 21. Precipitation is well distributed throughout the year.

Summer mildness: 39

Seasonal affect: 54

Winter mildness: 42

Hazard free: 34

	113
	107
	145
	90° 49
	32° 112
	0° 1
	23
	72
	40

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	44	22	60	9.5	3.1	6.2
FEB	47	23	58	9.7	2.9	4.9
MAR	58	33	56	10.1	3.6	3.7
APR	68	41	52	9.8	3.1	0
MAY	77	51	58	7.9	3.9	0
JUN	85	60	58	6.9	3.4	0
JUL	89	65	61	6.5	3.7	0
AUG	87	63	62	6.1	3.6	0
SEP	81	56	62	6.1	3.5	0
OCT	70	43	61	6.9	3.4	0
NOV	59	34	58	8.3	3.4	0
DEC	48	26	60	8.8	3.3	2.1

**Front Royal, VA****Rank: 179**

Location: 38.55 N and 78.10 W at 680 feet in northern Virginia at the north end of Skyline Drive, an extension of the Blue Ridge Parkway through Shenandoah National Park. Washington, D.C., is 60 miles east.

Landscape: Open low mountains. Terrain varies from rolling hills to rugged in the mountains visible to the west. Tall, broadleaf trees that provide a continuous dense canopy in summer dominate the surrounding forest.

Climate: Warm continental, with mild winters and warm, humid summers. The mountains provide steering, blocking, and modifying effects on storms and air masses. All seasons are pleasant for this latitude. Summer, especially July, can be hot. The first frost arrives October 17 and the last frost departs April 19.

Summer mildness: 70**Seasonal affect:** 12**Winter mildness:** 18**Hazard free:** 23

	58
	103
	204
	8
	134
	9
	178
	71
	35

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	34	23	55	10.6	2.4	10.1
FEB	37	26	53	10.5	2.4	8.7
MAR	49	35	51	10.7	3.4	5.1
APR	60	43	50	10.3	3.8	0.9
MAY	71	52	55	8.9	4.1	0
JUN	79	60	56	8.0	4.1	0
JUL	83	64	58	7.3	4.3	0
AUG	81	63	59	6.9	3.9	0
SEP	74	57	59	7.4	3.3	0
OCT	63	44	55	8.4	2.8	0.2
NOV	50	36	55	9.8	3.5	2.2
DEC	39	28	57	10.4	3.0	5.1

Gainesville, FL**Rank: 48**

Location: 29.39 N and 82.19 W at 147 feet, in north-central Florida. Jacksonville is 65 miles northeast.

Landscape: Flat plains and some rolling ranch and farm country, with some geological relief in limestone sinkholes and caverns. Native trees are longleaf and slash pines. Gallberry, saw palmetto, and fetterbush make up the undergrowth. Plants normally found in ravines of the Appalachian Mountains are at home here. There are lakes and wetlands in the county.

Climate: Subtropical, with a small annual range of temperature change. Humid, hot summer afternoons are cooled by frequent heavy thunderstorms or cool breezes from the Gulf. Winters tend to be dry and mild, with warm days and cool nights. First frost comes as late as November 27, with the last frost as early as March 3 yielding a long growing season. Measurable snowfalls are rare.

Summer mildness: 14**Seasonal affect:** 57**Winter mildness:** 97**Hazard free:** 78

	92
	148
	125
	99
	18
	0
	42
	75
	81

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	66	43	61	6.9	3.4	0.1
FEB	68	44	57	7.3	4.2	0
MAR	75	51	55	7.4	3.7	0
APR	81	56	50	7.0	2.6	0
MAY	86	63	50	6.7	3.8	0
JUN	90	68	59	5.9	6.8	0
JUL	91	71	63	5.6	6.8	0
AUG	90	71	65	5.3	8.0	0
SEP	87	69	65	5.9	5.3	0
OCT	81	60	62	6.6	1.8	0
NOV	74	51	63	6.2	2.3	0
DEC	68	45	62	5.9	3.3	0

Georgetown, TX**Rank: 74**

Location: 30.16 N and 97.44 W at 501 feet, on the Balcones Escarpment separating the Texas hill country from the blackland prairies of East Texas. Austin is 20 miles south.

Landscape: Tablelands, moderate relief. Low hills and wide terraces intermingle, supporting a variety of native vegetation, including oak, cedar, walnut, pecan, and mesquite. It varies with some stretches of grasslands, others of cliffs and bluffs. Located on the San Gabriel River, with nearby Lake Georgetown, impounded in 1980, providing a typical highland reservoir.

Climate: Prairie. Summers are hot and humid, though evenings can be cool. Winters are mild, only occasionally reaching below-freezing temperatures. November 25 brings the first frost, while the last frost leaves March 7. Late spring and early fall bring peak precipitation and thunderstorm activity. Winds are predominantly southerly, with occasional strong and cool northerlies. Snowfall is virtually nonexistent.

Summer mildness: 21**Seasonal affect:** 75**Winter mildness:** 58**Hazard free:** 69

	117
	115
	134
	106
	30
	0
	23
	46
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	56	35	60	9.7	1.9	0.5
FEB	61	38	59	10.2	2.7	0.3
MAR	70	46	56	10.8	2.5	0
APR	78	55	57	10.5	2.9	0
MAY	84	63	60	9.6	4.6	0
JUN	91	70	56	9.1	3.6	0
JUL	95	73	51	8.3	2.0	0
AUG	96	73	50	7.9	2.3	0
SEP	89	67	55	7.9	3.8	0
OCT	80	57	55	8.1	3.3	0
NOV	69	46	58	9.0	2.9	0
DEC	60	38	59	9.2	2.3	0

**Grand Junction, CO****Rank: 94**

Location: 39.04 N and 108.33 W at 4,597 feet, in the Grand Valley of western Colorado. Denver is 250 miles east and the Utah border 20 miles west.

Landscape: Open high mountains. Near to lake-studded Grand Mesa, the Colorado National Monument, and Uncompahgre National Forest. Sagebrush and prickly pear cactus are found in the canyons. Pine, spruce, and aspen forests cover the subalpine areas.

Climate: The interior location, coupled with the ring of high mountains, results in low rainfall. Winter snows are frequent and light and don't remain long. First frost arrives in late September and the last frost is gone by mid-May. Low summer humidity makes the region as dry as parts of Arizona. Sunny days predominate in all seasons. The city's climate is marked by wide seasonal temperature changes. The surrounding mountains protect from sudden and severe weather changes.

Summer mildness: 65**Seasonal affect:** 84**Winter mildness:** 21**Hazard free:** 32

	137
	107
	121
	67
	174
	9
	8
	24
	35

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	36	10	64	5.6	0.6	7.4
FEB	46	18	53	6.7	0.5	4.2
MAR	55	26	43	8.4	0.9	4.0
APR	65	33	34	9.5	0.7	1.0
MAY	76	43	31	9.6	0.9	0
JUN	87	50	25	9.7	0.5	0
JUL	92	57	29	9.3	0.8	0
AUG	90	55	31	9.0	0.9	0
SEP	81	45	33	8.9	0.8	0
OCT	69	34	39	7.9	0.9	0
NOV	52	23	50	6.7	0.7	2.0
DEC	40	14	61	5.9	0.7	5.3

Grants Pass, OR**Rank: 35**

Location: 42.26 N and 123.19 W at 948 feet, on the Rogue River in southwestern Oregon. Eugene is 120 miles north and Medford 20 miles east. California is 60 miles south.

Landscape: High mountains. This is the rugged terrain of the foothills of the Siskiyou. The Rogue River is swift white water here. Southwest is the "Redwood Highway" and the Illinois Valley. The common trees in the dense Pacific conifer forest are Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, silver fir, and Sitka spruce.

Climate: Generally mild highland. The moderate temperatures of the Pacific are altered somewhat by the Coast Range bringing a reputation of "Sun Belt" of southern Oregon. Nights are always cool, as are the days but for a brief period between July and August. Winter is the rainy season. Summers are dry. The first frost delays until October 20; last frost bides until April 30.

Summer mildness: 69**Seasonal affect:** 30**Winter mildness:** 78**Hazard free:** 80

	117
	79
	169
	53
	68
	0
	50
	62
	8

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	48	33	83	4.1	5.2	2.4
FEB	55	34	77	4.5	3.8	0.7
MAR	61	36	66	5.3	3.5	0.7
APR	67	38	57	5.7	1.8	0
MAY	75	44	50	5.7	1.2	0
JUN	83	50	42	5.9	0.5	0
JUL	90	53	38	5.8	0.2	0
AUG	90	53	39	5.3	0.5	0
SEP	83	47	42	4.5	0.9	0
OCT	70	41	58	3.7	2.4	0
NOV	54	38	80	3.6	5.3	0
DEC	46	34	85	3.6	5.7	1.5

Grass Valley–Nevada City, CA**Rank: 51**

Location: 39.15 N and 121.01 W at 2,519 feet, on the western slope of the Sierra Nevadas, 60 miles northeast of Sacramento.

Landscape: High mountains. In a long, steeply sloping mountainous region. The Sacramento Valley to the west softens the terrain somewhat. The transition zone between grassland and Sierran forest is found here. Conifers and shrubs cover the slopes, and at higher elevations, digger pine and blue oak form open stands. At 4,000 to 6,000 feet, the most important trees are western yellow pine, Douglas fir, sugar pine, white fir, and incense cedar.

Climate: Mediterranean, characterized by winter rainfall and dry summers. The higher elevation of the Sierra foothills tempers the summer heat. Winters are milder than at other locations on the eastern slope of the Sierras. There are frequent freezing temperatures at night as well as an occasional blizzard. Mid-October heralds the first frost and the last frost departs May 17.

Summer mildness: 73**Seasonal affect:** 70**Winter mildness:** 48**Hazard free:** 51

	189
	75
	100
	39
	117
	0
	34
	59
	14

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	50	30	80	7.2	10.3	6.5
FEB	53	31	75	7.6	8.8	3.5
MAR	56	33	65	8.6	8.4	4.0
APR	62	37	55	8.7	4.2	0
MAY	71	42	48	9.2	1.5	0
JUN	80	49	44	9.7	0.5	0
JUL	88	53	44	9.0	0.2	0
AUG	87	52	45	8.6	0.3	0
SEP	80	47	45	7.5	1.1	0
OCT	70	41	53	6.4	3.3	0
NOV	56	35	65	6.0	8.7	0
DEC	50	30	77	6.6	8.8	2.7

**Hamilton-Bitterroot Valley, MT****Rank: 97**

Location: 46.14 N and 114.09 W at 3,572 feet on the Bitterroot River in extreme western Montana. Missoula is at the head of the valley, 45 miles north.

Landscape: High mountains. The valley of rolling subalpine woodland is 25 miles wide and 96 miles long. Surrounding is the open parkland of the high valley, and the lakes and high, glaciated peaks of the Bitterroot Mountains. Conditions are good for prairie shortgrasses. Scattered shrubs and low trees give way to forests of ponderosa pine, piñon juniper, and Douglas fir.

Climate: Semiarid steppe, with most precipitation falling as snow in winter from October to May. With the variety of elevation and bodies of water, there are many microclimates in the Valley. Snow is especially heavy in the higher altitudes. Winters are cold and long with the first frost arriving September 20 and the last frost not leaving until May 24. Summers are hot, dry, clear, and all too brief.

Summer mildness: 90**Seasonal affect:** 43**Winter mildness:** 37**Hazard free:** 30

	75
	82
	208
	17
	170
	10
	27
	37
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	34	16	79	5.2	1.3	12.5
FEB	41	21	76	5.7	0.8	6.2
MAR	48	25	65	6.7	0.8	8.1
APR	57	31	52	7.6	1.0	3.0
MAY	66	38	51	7.3	1.7	0
JUN	74	45	52	7.1	1.6	0
JUL	83	49	42	6.9	0.9	0
AUG	81	47	46	6.6	1.2	0
SEP	70	39	54	6.0	1.2	0
OCT	59	31	65	5.0	0.8	0
NOV	43	23	77	5.1	1.0	4.0
DEC	34	17	81	4.8	1.1	9.5

Hampshire County, WV**Rank: 176**

Location: The weather station is Romney, the county seat. The town sits at 39.20 N and 78.45 W, at 830 feet in the eastern Panhandle section of West Virginia in the midst of 2,500-foot mountains.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The slopes are covered by a deciduous forest dominated by tall broadleaf trees that provide a dense, continuous canopy in summer but are completely bare in winter. Lower layers of small trees and shrubs develop weakly. In spring, a luxuriant ground cover of herbs quickly develops.

Climate: The continental climatic regime here ensures a strong annual temperature cycle, with cold winters and warm summers. Average annual temperatures range from 40°F to 60°F. There is year-round precipitation, averaging from 35 to 60 inches per year. The first frost arrives October 10 and the last frost departs May 5.

Summer mildness: 44**Seasonal affect:** 4**Winter mildness:** 46**Hazard free:** 31

	63
	99
	203
	15
	108
	2
	178
	91
	39

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	39	18	71	8.6	2.2	8.7
FEB	43	20	69	8.6	2.1	4.9
MAR	54	29	66	9.1	2.9	3.0
APR	64	38	63	9.0	2.9	0.3
MAY	75	47	70	7.5	3.4	0
JUN	83	56	73	6.9	3.3	0
JUL	86	61	75	6.5	3.7	0
AUG	85	59	76	6.3	3.2	0
SEP	78	52	76	6.9	3.0	0
OCT	67	40	71	7.3	2.8	0
NOV	55	32	70	7.9	2.7	1.8
DEC	43	24	72	7.9	2.3	3.6

Hanover, NH**Rank: 180**

Location: 43.42 N and 72.17 W at 531 feet, on the Connecticut River in western New Hampshire. Boston, Massachusetts, is 135 miles southeast.

Landscape: Low mountains. The Green Mountains of Vermont lie west and the White Mountains lie northeast of this upper Connecticut River Valley location. Low hills flank the river. The surrounding forest is mixed conifer and deciduous, with northern white pine, eastern hemlock, maple, oak, and beech.

Climate: Northerly latitude assures the variety and vigor of a true New England climate. The summer, while not long, is pleasant. Fall is cool and clear and runs through October. First frost comes September 30 and the last frost delays until May 17. Winters are cold, with brief, intense cold snaps formed by high-pressure systems moving down from central Canada and Hudson Bay. Snows are deep and long lasting. Spring is called breakup, or mud season.

Summer mildness: 82**Seasonal affect:** 12**Winter mildness:** 14**Hazard free:** 12

	91
	110
	164
	7
	167
	23
	50
	75
	20

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	28	7	58	9.0	2.5	18.7
FEB	33	10	57	9.4	2.4	17.9
MAR	43	21	53	9.9	2.7	13.7
APR	56	32	49	10.0	2.9	3.0
MAY	70	43	49	8.9	3.6	0
JUN	78	52	55	8.1	3.3	0
JUL	83	57	55	7.5	3.3	0
AUG	80	56	57	7.2	3.6	0
SEP	71	48	59	7.3	3.3	0
OCT	59	37	59	7.8	3.3	0
NOV	45	28	60	8.5	3.5	5.0
DEC	32	15	62	8.7	3.1	18.5

**Hattiesburg, MS****Rank: 122**

Location: 31.1937 N and 89.1725 W at 161 feet in southern Mississippi, 70 miles north of Biloxi and the Gulf of Mexico. Jackson is 90 miles northwest.

Landscape: Irregular plains. This is the Piney Woods section of the Gulf Coastal Plain—a wide belt of longleaf yellow pine that covers southern Mississippi to within a few miles of the coastal-plain grasslands. The DeSoto National Forest lies to the south, southeast, and northeast. Slash and loblolly pine mix with dogwoods along the sloping plains. Marshes, lakes, and swamps are common. The soil is sandstone and clay.

Climate: Subtropical. Hattiesburg averages 60 to 70 inches of rain a year. Thunderstorms are frequent in summer, and hurricanes are a threat from late summer to early autumn. Summers are hot and humid, while winters are mild with negligible amounts of snow and sleet. November 8 will bring the first frost, and March 17 will usher out the last frost.

Summer mildness: 3
Winter mildness: 84

Seasonal affect: 26
Hazard free: 68

	111
	104
	150
	95
	44
	0
	195
	75
	68

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	58	34	76	8.4	5.8	0.4
FEB	62	37	74	8.6	5.7	0.3
MAR	70	45	72	9.1	6.3	0
APR	78	54	73	8.5	4.8	0
MAY	84	61	74	7.3	5.2	0
JUN	90	68	74	6.4	4.2	0
JUL	92	71	77	5.9	5.5	0
AUG	92	70	77	5.6	5.2	0
SEP	88	65	76	6.4	3.6	0
OCT	79	52	73	6.5	3.2	0
NOV	70	44	74	7.6	4.8	0
DEC	62	38	76	8.3	6.3	0

★ Henderson, NV**Rank: 18**

Location: 36.10 N and 115.08 W at 2,028 feet, just west of the Colorado River Valley. Las Vegas is 15 miles northwest.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. Near the center of a broad desert valley surrounded by mountains from 2,000 to 10,000 feet higher than the valley floor. These mountains act as effective barriers to moisture-laden storms moving in from the Pacific Ocean. The thick-branched Joshua tree grows among creosote bushes and jumbled boulders in the Mohave Desert region.

Climate: Typical desert. Humidity is low with maximum temperatures at the 100°F level. Nearby mountains and Lake Mead contribute to relatively cool nights. Spring and fall are ideal, rarely interrupted by adverse weather conditions. Winters, too, are mild, with daytime averages of 60°F, clear skies, and warm sunshine. First frost is delayed until mid-December; last frost is seen February 17. There are very few overcast or rainy days.

Summer mildness: 28
Winter mildness: 54

Seasonal affect: 93
Hazard free: 96

	221
	79
	65
	123
	14
	0
	1
	13
	14

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	55	39	35	7.5	0.6	1.0
FEB	62	43	30	8.6	0.6	0.1
MAR	68	46	25	10.3	0.7	0
APR	77	53	20	11.0	0.3	0
MAY	87	61	17	11.1	0.2	0
JUN	97	70	14	11.1	0.1	0
JUL	102	76	15	10.3	0.5	0
AUG	100	74	19	9.6	0.9	0
SEP	92	68	20	9.0	0.6	0
OCT	80	58	22	8.1	0.3	0
NOV	65	46	30	7.7	0.5	0
DEC	56	39	36	7.3	0.5	0.1

Hendersonville–East Flat Rock, NC**Rank: 128**

Location: 35.19 N and 82.27 W at 2,146 feet, just above the South Carolina border in the western part of the state, 20 miles south of Asheville.

Landscape: Low mountains. The relief is mostly broken, mountainous, and rugged, with some very steep slopes and high waterfalls. The city lies in the midst of a large intermountain valley, with rolling to strongly rolling mountain meadows. The Appalachian oak forest includes the variety of deciduous trees common throughout, including birch, hickory, maple, ash, and sweet chestnut, with an understory of small trees and shrubs.

Climate: Warm continental, with considerable temperature differences between winter and summer. It is mild and pleasant from late spring to late fall, and summer nights are always cool even following hot afternoons. Winters are short, with light snowfalls. October 12 will bring in the first frost; April 26 will usher out the last.

Summer mildness: 56
Winter mildness: 52

Seasonal affect: 22
Hazard free: 46

	103
	113
	149
	11
	109
	0
	78
	82
	45

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	48	25	59	9.7	3.9	3.2
FEB	51	28	56	9.6	4.5	3.6
MAR	60	35	53	9.4	5.7	2.8
APR	69	42	50	8.9	3.9	0
MAY	76	51	57	7.1	5.0	0
JUN	82	58	59	6.1	4.8	0
JUL	85	62	63	5.8	4.7	0
AUG	83	61	63	5.4	6.0	0
SEP	78	55	64	5.6	4.4	0
OCT	69	43	57	6.8	4.5	0
NOV	59	35	57	8.1	4.3	0
DEC	51	29	59	8.9	4.4	1.4

**Hilton Head Island, SC****Rank: 84**

Location: 32.13 N and 80.45 W at 8 feet, in the Sea Islands, 45 miles south of Charleston.

Landscape: Flat plains. The land is low and flat, with elevations mostly under 25 feet. There are dozens of islands of various shapes and sizes, and on them are fresh and saltwater streams, inlets, rivers, and sounds. Hilton Head, with excellent beaches, is an exception to the usual swampy conditions of the islands. The interior forests are medium to tall stands of mixed loblolly and shortleaf pines, plus deciduous oak, hickory, red maple, and winged elm.

Climate: Subtropical. The island group is just on the edge of the subtropical climate enjoyed by Florida and the Caribbean. The surrounding water produces a maritime climate, with mild winters, hot and humid summers, and temperatures that shift slowly. The inland mountains block much cold air from the interior. First frost after November 20; last frost leaves March 9.

Summer mildness: 16**Seasonal affect:** 49**Winter mildness:** 75**Hazard free:** 76

	104
	109
	152
	56
	28
	0
	28
	71
	47

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	59	39	57	9.1	3.7	0.1
FEB	62	41	55	9.9	3.3	0.2
MAR	70	48	53	10.0	4.1	0
APR	77	55	50	9.7	2.9	0
MAY	83	63	55	8.7	4.0	0
JUN	88	69	60	8.4	6.1	0
JUL	90	73	66	7.9	6.4	0
AUG	89	72	70	7.4	7.9	0
SEP	85	68	67	7.8	5.0	0
OCT	78	58	60	8.1	2.6	0
NOV	70	49	60	8.1	2.4	0
DEC	62	42	59	8.5	3.2	0

Hot Springs, AR**Rank: 91**

Location: 34.30 N and 93.03 W at 579 feet, 36 miles southwest of Little Rock.

Landscape: Open low mountains. On the eastern edge of the Ouachita Mountains and the Ouachita National Forest. There are 47 thermal springs here. In the protected forests, mixed broadleaf deciduous trees such as oak, maple, sweet gum, and hickory thrive. Needleleaf evergreens and lower layers of redbud and dogwood are common.

Climate: The irregular topography, with elevations varying from 400 to 1,000 feet, has considerable effect on the area's microclimate, particularly on temperature extremes, ground fog, and precipitation. The climate is generally mild, not seeing frost until November 9, and bidding farewell to it by late March. However, the area is subject to storms, flash floods, and extreme heat and cold. Winter is short and wet, with temperatures falling below freezing half the nights. Summers are hot, humid, and long. Spring and fall are changeable and usually pleasant.

Summer mildness: 26**Seasonal affect:** 62**Winter mildness:** 67**Hazard free:** 52

	119
	100
	146
	78
	56
	0
	16
	72
	57

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	50	29	61	8.6	3.3	2.3
FEB	55	32	59	9.0	3.9	1.4
MAR	65	41	56	9.7	5.4	0.4
APR	74	50	56	9.1	5.5	0
MAY	81	58	58	7.7	6.4	0
JUN	89	66	55	7.2	4.7	0
JUL	93	70	56	6.7	5.0	0
AUG	92	68	56	6.4	3.5	0
SEP	86	62	58	6.7	4.0	0
OCT	76	51	53	6.8	4.3	0
NOV	63	41	59	8.0	5.6	0
DEC	53	32	62	8.2	5.0	0.6

Iowa City, IA**Rank: 195**

Location: 41.394 N and 91.3148 W at 654 feet, along both banks of the Iowa River in eastern Iowa. Cedar Rapids is 25 miles northeast and Des Moines 110 miles west.

Landscape: Irregular plains. In the midst of rolling to steep hills and highly developed farmland. The soil is prairie, high in organic content. The Iowa River provides an extensive drainage basin. Prehistoric coral formations were revealed in the 1993 floods, providing further evidence that the area was part of a huge sea many millions of years ago.

Climate: Continental, with extremes in temperature and precipitation. Summer highs can hit 100°F accompanied by high humidity. Winter temperatures average 15°F to 25°F but can get much colder. Frost appears by October 11 and disappears after April 22. Precipitation can be highly variable, with large amounts falling all at once and then long dry periods. The potential for violent storms is high.

Summer mildness: 33**Seasonal affect:** 27**Winter mildness:** 6**Hazard free:** 16

	90
	100
	175
	26
	139
	15
	130
	59
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	30	12	74	11.5	1.0	6.7
FEB	35	17	74	11.4	1.0	6.0
MAR	48	28	74	12.4	2.4	5.6
APR	63	40	69	12.7	3.7	1.5
MAY	75	51	68	11.1	4.0	0
JUN	84	60	69	10.0	4.5	0
JUL	88	65	73	8.6	4.9	0
AUG	85	62	75	8.4	4.4	0
SEP	78	54	74	9.2	3.9	0
OCT	66	43	70	10.2	2.8	0.3
NOV	50	31	75	11.2	2.1	1.7
DEC	34	18	77	11.2	1.6	6.8










**Jackson Hole, WY****Rank: 165**

Location: 43.2848 N and 110.4542 W at 6,234 feet, in western Wyoming south of Yellowstone National Park. Billings, Montana, is 110 miles north.

Landscape: High mountains. In a valley encompassing Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge. Jackson Hole is surrounded by the Rocky Mountains, of which the Teton Range is the youngest. The Snake River cuts through the valley and passes through Jackson Lake. The alpine geography supports a variety of vegetation, including sagebrush, lodgepole pine, fir, spruce, and aspen. Cottonwood, elder, and willow grow in the valley itself.

Climate: The mountains shield the valley from moist air, making for crisp, clear, dry summers. Winters are long with heavy snowfall, but are not too severe. First frost comes early by August 12, and there will be frost potential until July 13. Rainfall amounts are small; most precipitation comes in the form of light, powdery snow from October to April.

Summer mildness: 98**Seasonal affect:** 44**Winter mildness:** 0**Hazard free:** 2

	120
	90
	155
	2
	252
	42
	48
	45
	27

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	26	4	60	13.0	1.5	23.3
FEB	32	7	59	12.2	1.0	12.2
MAR	41	16	57	11.4	1.1	12.5
APR	51	24	55	11.5	1.2	6.8
MAY	62	30	56	10.7	2.0	1.3
JUN	72	37	55	10.1	1.7	0.2
JUL	82	41	48	9.5	1.1	0
AUG	80	38	46	9.5	1.3	0
SEP	70	31	51	10.2	1.4	0.3
OCT	58	23	52	11.0	1.2	2.2
NOV	39	16	59	12.1	1.5	9.2
DEC	27	5	60	13.1	1.6	18.6










Kalispell-Flathead Valley, MT**Rank: 112**

Location: 48.11 N and 114.18 W at 2,946 feet, in the Flathead Valley at the western gateway to Glacier National Park, about 70 air miles north of Missoula.

Landscape: High mountains. The Continental Divide is 50 miles east. In addition to Flathead, the largest natural lake west of the Mississippi, the valley contains four smaller lakes and numerous streams and sloughs. Scattered prairie grasses, shrubs, and low trees give way to evergreen forests. Ponderosa pine, piñon juniper, and Douglas fir are frequent associates.

Climate: In winter, the mountains to the east block cold air from Alberta and assure beneficial seasonal rains by cooling the ocean air arriving from the west. There's more precipitation on the eastern side of the valley than the western. It's windy, with intense winds often reaching 30 to 40 mph. Winter is cold and snowy. First frost arrives September 20; last frost departs finally by May 20. Summers are pleasant and dry.

Summer mildness: 95**Seasonal affect:** 31**Winter mildness:** 33**Hazard free:** 32

	71
	81
	213
	12
	171
	12
	33
	44
	22

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	28	13	79	6.0	1.5	12.5
FEB	35	18	76	6.2	1.1	6.2
MAR	43	24	65	7.2	1.0	8.1
APR	55	31	52	8.2	1.1	3.0
MAY	64	38	51	7.6	1.9	0
JUN	71	44	52	7.2	2.2	0
JUL	80	47	42	6.7	1.1	0
AUG	79	46	46	6.6	1.4	0
SEP	68	39	54	6.4	1.3	0
OCT	54	29	65	5.3	0.9	0
NOV	38	24	77	5.7	1.3	4.0
DEC	30	16	81	5.6	1.7	9.5










Kerrville, TX**Rank: 59**

Location: 30.03 N and 99.08 W at 1,645 feet, at the edge of the Edwards Plateau. Austin is 80 miles east.

Landscape: High hills. Kerr County lies across the hills, valleys, and uplands of the rolling hill country of central Texas. There are breaks into the deep valleys of the Guadalupe River and its tributaries. The area is covered with cedars and live oaks.

Climate: Prairie continental in character, with wide swings of temperature both daily and seasonally, especially in winter. First frost arrives by November 11 and the last frost leaves March 24. Winter precipitation is mostly slow, steady, light rain. Summers are drier and hot. Falls are pleasant but can be stormy due to northers and Gulf storms moving north.

Summer mildness: 34**Seasonal affect:** 78**Winter mildness:** 56**Hazard free:** 69

	117
	115
	134
	97
	39
	0
	23
	43
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	35	60	9.7	1.3	0.1
FEB	64	39	59	10.2	1.8	0.6
MAR	72	47	56	10.8	1.4	0.1
APR	79	55	57	10.5	2.5	0
MAY	84	62	60	9.6	4.2	0
JUN	89	67	56	9.1	3.6	0
JUL	93	69	51	8.3	2.2	0
AUG	93	68	50	7.9	2.7	0
SEP	87	64	55	7.9	3.6	0
OCT	79	55	55	8.1	3.6	0
NOV	69	46	58	9.0	1.9	0
DEC	62	38	59	9.2	1.3	0



Ketchum–Sun Valley, ID

Rank: 134

Location: 43.41 N and 114.21 W at 5,821 feet, at the edge of Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area, 100 miles east of Boise.

Landscape: High mountains. Sits high among even higher, rugged mountains. There are several flat or nearly flat glaciated valleys, some of which are several miles wide. The native vegetation is a mixed coniferous forest composed of Douglas fir, Engelmann spruce, and cedar-hemlock.

Climate: Semiarid steppe. Summers are crisp, clear, and dry. Winters are long and cold. First frost heralds by September 10 and the frost will last until June 14. Annual precipitation comes almost entirely as light and dry snow and accumulates to some depth. The prevailing winds are westerlies. Seasonal and daily temperature changes are extreme but would be even more so if not moderated by the mountains.

Summer mildness: 93

Winter mildness: 6

Seasonal affect: 51

Hazard free: 22

	121
	90
	154
	90°
	15
	32°
	205
	0°
	20
	47
	36
	15

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	29	6	80	8.0	2.4	21.6
FEB	35	9	78	9.0	1.7	9.7
MAR	43	17	65	10.0	1.3	6.7
APR	55	27	55	10.0	1.1	0.7
MAY	67	34	51	9.5	1.2	0.1
JUN	76	41	47	9.0	1.1	0
JUL	86	46	37	8.4	0.7	0
AUG	84	44	40	8.2	0.6	0
SEP	74	35	45	8.2	0.8	0
OCT	63	27	59	8.3	0.8	0.3
NOV	44	19	75	8.4	2.0	6.1
DEC	31	7	83	8.1	2.3	15.0

Key West, FL

Rank: 83

Location: 24.33 N and 81.47 W, at 7 feet, at the end of the long island chain swinging in a southwesterly arc from the tip of the Florida peninsula, 160 miles south of Miami.

Landscape: Flat plains. Key West sits on a sand-and-coral island 3½ miles long and 1 mile wide. The average elevation along the entire island chain is just 8 feet. The waters surrounding these islands are shallow, and there is little wave action because outlying reefs break the surf. Much of the shoreline is filled mangrove swamp.

Climate: Because of the Gulf Stream, the Florida Keys have a notably mild, tropical-maritime climate in which the average winter temperatures are only about 14 degrees lower than in summer. Summers are hot, humid, and stormy, although prevailing easterly trade winds and sea breezes make the heat tolerable. There is no known record of frost, ice, sleet, or snow.

Summer mildness: 1

Winter mildness: 82

Seasonal affect: 51

Hazard free: 82

	75
	175
	115
	90°
	139
	32°
	0
	0
	39
	84
	74

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	75	59	69	9.5	2.0	0
FEB	75	60	67	10.2	1.8	0
MAR	79	64	66	10.6	1.7	0
APR	82	68	63	10.5	1.8	0
MAY	85	72	65	9.7	3.5	0
JUN	88	75	68	8.4	5.1	0
JUL	89	76	66	8.0	3.6	0
AUG	89	77	67	7.9	5.0	0
SEP	88	76	69	8.2	5.9	0
OCT	84	72	69	9.3	4.4	0
NOV	80	67	69	9.7	2.8	0
DEC	76	62	69	9.2	2.0	0

★ Kingman, AZ

Rank: 15

Location: 35.11 N and 114.03 W at 3,334 feet, in the dry Peacock Mountains of northwestern Arizona. Las Vegas is 90 miles northwest.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. Sits some 2,000 feet above the Colorado River Valley in high plateau country. Lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu are principal sources of water and recreation. Ground cover is primarily sagebrush and native grasses. In the upper elevations are sparse conifer stands.

Climate: Arid steppe, with strong daily and seasonal temperature changes. Winters are clear, long, and extremely mild, with some flow of air from as far as the Pacific Ocean. The first frost delays until November 14 and the last frost departs around April 8. There's a short, hot, sun-baked stretch from July to September. Except for brief periods in spring and summer, there's no measurable precipitation.

Summer mildness: 35

Winter mildness: 72

Seasonal affect: 96

Hazard free: 81

	242
	75
	48
	90°
	101
	32°
	61
	0°
	0
	2
	23
	7

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	54	31	40	7.3	0.9	0.5
FEB	59	34	35	7.4	0.9	0.3
MAR	63	38	30	7.9	1.1	1.0
APR	71	44	25	8.3	0.6	0
MAY	81	53	23	8.3	0.2	0
JUN	91	62	22	8.5	0.2	0
JUL	96	69	32	9.5	1.1	0
AUG	94	68	35	8.9	1.5	0
SEP	88	60	35	7.3	0.8	0
OCT	78	50	32	6.6	0.7	0
NOV	64	39	34	6.9	0.8	0
DEC	55	32	41	7.2	1.0	0.6

**Kissimmee–St. Cloud, FL****Rank: 45**

Location: 28.17 N and 81.24 W at 19 feet at the head of Lake Tohopekaliga in central Florida, 30 miles southwest of Orlando.

Landscape: Flat plains. Situated amid clear lakes in gently rolling hill country. Flood-plain grasses and pine flatwoods mix with live oak hammocks. Forests are a typical southern coastal mix of hardwood, longleaf, and slash pine. Aromatic and evergreen bayberry and sweet bay are scattered throughout.

Climate: Subtropical, with a small annual range of temperature change. First frost comes as late as December 27 and the last frost is gone by February 6. Warmed by both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic, winters are sunny, mild, and dry. Summers are hot, humid, and beset by frequent thunderstorms that provide half the area's annual precipitation.

Summer mildness: 12**Seasonal affect:** 63**Winter mildness:** 87**Hazard free:** 86

	92
	148
	125
	90° 108
	32° 6
	0° 0
	27
	74
	82

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	73	49	56	8.9	2.2	0
FEB	75	50	52	9.6	3.1	0
MAR	79	55	50	9.9	2.9	0
APR	84	59	46	9.4	1.5	0
MAY	88	65	49	8.8	3.7	0
JUN	91	70	56	8.0	6.1	0
JUL	91	72	59	7.4	7.0	0
AUG	91	72	60	7.1	6.7	0
SEP	90	71	60	7.7	5.7	0
OCT	85	65	56	8.6	2.8	0
NOV	80	57	55	8.6	2.2	0
DEC	75	51	57	8.6	2.2	0

★ Laguna Beach–Dana Point, CA**Rank: 3**

Location: 33.32 N and 117.47 W at 44 feet, on the Pacific Ocean 40 miles south of Los Angeles. San Diego is another 60 miles south.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The shore is somewhat rocky, and steep hills rise from two lagoons at the head of Laguna canyon. Trees and shrubs must withstand severe summer drought and evaporation. Following a wet winter, hard-leaved evergreens such as piñon and cypress are more abundant.

Climate: Ocean breezes keep the weather mild throughout the year. Days when the temperature tops 90°F or falls to 32°F are rare. It is a long growing season, with the first frost coming in January 5 and the last frost departing by January 25. Morning fog and low clouds are common in cooler seasons. There isn't much precipitation, and what rain there is falls mostly in winter.

Summer mildness: 71**Seasonal affect:** 82**Winter mildness:** 98**Hazard free:** 99

	147
	116
	103
	90° 2
	32° 3
	0° 0
	38
	21
	4

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	66	42	55	6.7	2.3	0
FEB	67	43	58	7.4	2.3	0
MAR	66	44	61	8.2	2.2	0
APR	69	46	60	8.5	0.9	0
MAY	70	52	65	8.4	0.3	0
JUN	72	55	68	8.0	0.1	0
JUL	76	59	68	7.8	0.0	0
AUG	77	59	68	7.7	0.1	0
SEP	78	58	65	7.3	0.4	0
OCT	75	53	59	6.9	0.3	0
NOV	70	46	55	6.7	1.7	0
DEC	66	42	53	6.5	1.7	0

Lake Conroe, TX**Rank: 77**

Location: 30.21 N and 95.33 W at 201 feet, in the Texas Gulf coastal plain, 40 miles north of downtown Houston.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Rolling hills on a flood plain at the southern edge of the Big Thicket area. The Sam Houston National Forest abuts the northern shore of this 22,000-acre artificial lake. The area is rapidly becoming suburbanized, with some loss to the piney woods and dense deciduous forests.

Climate: Subtropical. Summer days are long, hot, and humid, but the nights are pleasantly cool. Winters are mild with few, brief cold spells. Thanksgiving brings in the first frost, and the last frost is out before St. Patrick's Day. Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year but arrives in brief, heavy, and sometimes violent thunderstorms.

Summer mildness: 9**Seasonal affect:** 53**Winter mildness:** 85**Hazard free:** 75

	94
	115
	157
	90° 108
	32° 28
	0° 0
	31
	64
	61

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	38	63	8.3	3.6	0.1
FEB	64	41	61	8.8	3.2	0.2
MAR	72	48	59	9.4	2.9	0
APR	79	57	57	9.2	3.8	0
MAY	85	63	59	8.2	5.4	0
JUN	91	70	59	7.7	4.5	0
JUL	94	72	58	7.0	3.5	0
AUG	95	72	58	6.3	3.6	0
SEP	89	67	60	6.9	5.0	0
OCT	81	56	56	7.0	3.7	0
NOV	72	48	57	7.9	4.2	0
DEC	63	40	61	8.0	4.0	0



★ Lake Havasu City, AZ

Rank: 8

Location: 34.29 N and 114.19 W at 602 feet, in extreme western Arizona above Parker Dam on the Colorado River. Las Vegas, Nevada, is 100 miles northwest.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. On the Colorado River, west of the Mojave Mountains. The center is the 45-mile-long Lake Havasu, with red wall limestone canyons, steep slopes, and gorges. This is the edge of the Sonoran Desert, where growth is low shrub and saguaro. Creosote bush, geraniums, and sedums are common, especially after a wet winter.

Climate: Desert, with strong daily and seasonal temperature changes. Winters are clear, long, and extremely mild, with some flow of air from as far away as the Pacific Ocean. First frost comes December 9; last frost is gone by February 7. From May to October is a long, hot, sunbaked stretch. Except for a handful of days in spring and summer, there is no measurable precipitation.

Summer mildness: 19

Seasonal affect: 99

Winter mildness: 91

Hazard free: 97

	242
	75
	48
	90°
	32°
	0°
	2
	11
	7

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	67	39	40	7.3	0.6	0
FEB	73	44	35	7.4	0.4	0
MAR	79	48	30	7.9	0.5	0
APR	87	54	25	8.3	0.2	0
MAY	96	63	23	8.3	0.1	0
JUN	105	72	22	8.5	0.0	0
JUL	109	79	32	9.5	0.3	0
AUG	107	79	35	8.9	0.5	0
SEP	101	71	35	7.3	0.5	0
OCT	91	59	32	6.6	0.4	0
NOV	77	47	34	6.9	0.5	0
DEC	67	39	41	7.2	0.6	0

Lakeland-Winter Haven, FL

Rank: 46

Location: 28.02 N and 81.57 W at 211 feet, in central Florida, 42 miles east of Tampa.

Landscape: Flat plains. In the rolling lake-ridge section, 50 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and 70 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. Here one can find the highest elevation in the Florida peninsula. Flood-plain prairies and pine flatwoods mix with live oak hammocks. Forests are a typical mix of hardwood, longleaf, and slash pine. Aromatic and evergreen bayberry and sweet bay are scattered throughout.

Climate: Subtropical. The proximity of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean bring pleasant winters. Days are bright and warm, nights are cool, and rainfall is light to moderate. The high temperature and humidity during the long summers are moderated by afternoon thundershowers. Occasional major cold waves overspread the area, bringing temperatures down below freezing. The first frost comes late on December 27, and the last frost leaves a short time later on February 6.

Summer mildness: 8

Seasonal affect: 64

Winter mildness: 88

Hazard free: 86

	92
	148
	125
	90°
	32°
	0°
	27
	74
	82

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	72	50	56	8.9	2.3	0
FEB	74	52	52	9.6	3.0	0
MAR	80	57	50	9.9	3.4	0
APR	84	61	46	9.4	1.4	0
MAY	89	67	49	8.8	4.2	0
JUN	91	71	56	8.0	6.8	0
JUL	92	73	59	7.4	7.0	0
AUG	92	73	60	7.1	7.6	0
SEP	90	72	60	7.7	5.7	0
OCT	85	66	56	8.6	2.0	0
NOV	78	58	55	8.6	2.1	0
DEC	73	53	57	8.6	2.2	0

Lake of the Cherokees, OK

Rank: 137

Location: 36.33 N and 94.45 W at 739 feet, near the western slope of the Ozark Mountains. Tulsa is 75 miles southwest.

Landscape: Tablelands with moderate relief. The forested hills drop to the 1,300-mile shore of Grand Lake, a major impoundment on the Neosho River. Foothills give way to a low-relief plain and rivers. Forest and prairie grow side by side: Deciduous oak-hickory forests with elm, sycamore, bur oak, redbud, and buckeye stand next to vast stretches of bluestem grasses.

Climate: Prairie, with hot summers and winters that are moderate, with occasional hard freezes. October 22 brings in the first frost; last frost departs by April 15. Spring arrives in mid-March and autumn ends in late October. Annual precipitation is moderate and, except for snow in January, usually falls as rain. Humidity is mild.

Summer mildness: 39

Seasonal affect: 70

Winter mildness: 25

Hazard free: 37

	128
	103
	135
	90°
	32°
	0°
	10
	61
	51

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	23	59	10.5	1.8	3.3
FEB	51	27	57	10.9	2.0	2.4
MAR	61	37	53	12.1	4.0	1.5
APR	72	47	51	12.0	3.8	0
MAY	78	56	58	10.7	5.1	0
JUN	86	64	58	10.0	4.7	0
JUL	92	68	53	9.3	3.0	0
AUG	92	66	53	9.0	3.8	0
SEP	84	60	56	9.2	5.1	0
OCT	73	48	53	9.7	3.8	0
NOV	60	37	57	10.4	3.8	0
DEC	48	27	60	10.3	2.5	1.6

**Lake of the Ozarks, MO****Rank: 177**

Location: 38.00 N and 92.44 W at 1,043 feet, on the Osage River at Bagnell Dam. Kansas City is 170 miles northwest and St. Louis 180 miles northeast.

Landscape: Open hills. There are 1,150 miles of irregular shoreline on the lake, formed when the Osage River was dammed in the rolling, open country of south-central Missouri. The slopes are wooded with oak, maple, sweet gum, and hickory, mixed with second-growth spruce and pine.

Climate: Hot continental with hot, humid summers and cold winters. Apparent temperatures, especially those caused by cold and wind, are pronounced throughout the year. First frost arrives by October 20 and the last frost departs mid-April. Snow is neither deep nor long lasting.

Summer mildness: 33**Seasonal affect:** 53**Winter mildness:** 20**Hazard free:** 17

	116
	97
	153
	58
	104
	3
	20
	66
	56

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	43	21	59	11.7	1.6	5.2
FEB	48	26	61	11.9	2.2	4.5
MAR	60	35	57	12.9	3.8	4.3
APR	71	46	57	12.2	4.0	0
MAY	78	55	60	10.4	5.1	0
JUN	85	63	61	9.6	4.2	0
JUL	90	68	60	8.5	3.6	0
AUG	89	66	56	8.6	3.9	0
SEP	82	58	58	9.3	4.5	0
OCT	73	47	57	10.1	4.4	0
NOV	59	37	60	11.3	3.4	1.0
DEC	47	26	64	11.6	2.9	3.4

Lake Placid, NY**Rank: 199**

Location: 44.16 N and 73.59 W at 1,800 feet in north-east New York, in the Adirondack Mountains, surrounding Mirror Lake. Plattsburgh is 40 miles northeast.

Landscape: Open low mountains. Lake Placid Trail connects the Adirondack foothills and High Peaks region to the northeast. The land is sharply rolling with relatively deep valleys. Natural lakes abound and a dense mixed conifer and deciduous forest covers the area.

Climate: Rigorous continental, with severe, snowy winters impacted by air and moisture from the Canadian Arctic. The first frost arrives September 14 and the last frost departs May 31. Summer days are bright and approach the ideal: a long period of mild, dry days with cool nights. Springs and falls are all too short.

Summer mildness: 56**Seasonal affect:** 13**Winter mildness:** 3**Hazard free:** 4

	63
	98
	205
	14
	189
	19
	129
	70
	27

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	26	6	72	10.8	2.2	14.0
FEB	29	9	69	10.7	2.0	13.0
MAR	39	22	66	10.8	2.4	10.0
APR	50	33	62	10.5	2.7	9.0
MAY	64	44	66	9.0	3.3	5.0
JUN	72	53	69	8.3	3.8	0
JUL	77	58	70	8.0	3.9	0
AUG	74	56	74	7.7	4.5	0
SEP	67	48	76	8.2	3.8	1.0
OCT	55	37	73	8.8	3.2	9.0
NOV	42	29	73	10.2	3.4	12.0
DEC	30	15	74	10.4	2.8	13.0

Largo, FL**Rank: 31**

Location: 27.54 N and 82.48 W at 50 feet, on the Gulf Coast 15 miles west of Tampa and 20 miles north of St. Petersburg.

Landscape: Flat plains. Largo occupies a high coastal area on the west coast of a peninsula separating the Gulf of Mexico from Tampa Bay. Sand-reef islands line the coast. Coastal vegetation consists of southern yellow pine and laurel, with cultivated citrus groves farther inland.

Climate: Subtropical. The Gulf of Mexico heavily influences the weather. Summers are long, hot, and humid, interrupted by frequent afternoon thunderstorms. Winters are very mild and cool at night, with snow and below-freezing temperatures extremely rare.

Summer mildness: 7**Seasonal affect:** 71**Winter mildness:** 94**Hazard free:** 85

	102
	142
	121
	78
	0
	0
	22
	69
	86

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	68	53	59	8.6	2.2	0
FEB	70	54	56	9.2	3.1	0
MAR	75	60	55	9.5	3.6	0
APR	80	65	51	9.3	1.3	0
MAY	86	70	52	8.7	3.1	0
JUN	89	75	60	8.0	6.2	0
JUL	90	76	63	7.2	6.8	0
AUG	90	76	64	7.0	8.6	0
SEP	88	75	62	7.8	7.1	0
OCT	83	69	57	8.5	2.3	0
NOV	76	62	57	8.4	2.1	0
DEC	71	55	59	8.5	2.4	0



Las Cruces, NM

Rank: 58

Location: 32.18 N and 106.46 W at 3,883 feet, 40 miles northwest of El Paso, Texas.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. The wide, level Rio Grande Valley runs northwest to southeast through here. Rolling desert borders the southwest and west. About 12 miles east, the Organ Mountains, with peaks above 8,500 feet, form a rugged backdrop. The northwest portion of the valley narrows to low hills and buttes. The vegetation is dry-desert with negligible ground cover. Only plants adapted to the highly alkaline conditions survive. These include thorn scrub, savanna or steppe grass, prickly pear, and saguaro cactus. In this higher altitude are belts of oak and juniper woodland.

Climate: Desert continental, characterized by low rainfall, hot summers with cool nights, and mild, sunny winters. There are freezes, with the first frost coming October 23 and the last frost leaving April 18. The rainfall is light, almost all falling in occasional, brief summer showers. Drizzles are unknown.

Summer mildness: 48

Seasonal affect: 95

Winter mildness: 38

Hazard free: 56

	193
	100
	72
	105
	120
	0
	2
	22
	36

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	58	23	42	8.4	0.5	1.3
FEB	63	26	34	9.2	0.4	0.9
MAR	69	33	27	11.0	0.2	0.4
APR	77	40	21	11.1	0.2	0
MAY	86	48	21	10.3	0.3	0
JUN	94	56	23	9.3	0.6	0
JUL	95	63	35	8.3	1.9	0
AUG	92	61	39	7.8	2.2	0
SEP	87	54	41	7.6	1.6	0
OCT	79	41	36	7.5	1.0	0
NOV	67	30	37	8.0	0.6	1.0
DEC	59	23	42	7.9	0.8	1.7

Las Vegas, NM

Rank: 89

Location: 35.37 N and 105.13 W at 6,600 feet in north-east New Mexico, some 50 miles east from Santa Fe.

Landscape: Tablelands with considerable relief. Mountains of the Mesa Montosa surround this San Miguel County seat. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir cover the higher elevations; ponderosa pine is on the lower, drier, more exposed slopes; grasses cover the parks and valleys.

Climate: Highland steppe, with crisp and clear, but cold, winter days. The first frost arrives October 6 and the last frost departs May 15. Summers and falls are the best seasons: pleasant, warm, dry, and invigorating. Long periods of cloudiness are unknown.

Summer mildness: 91

Seasonal affect: 85

Winter mildness: 17

Hazard free: 16

	168
	110
	87
	23
	157
	2
	14
	38
	38

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	40	18	50	8.0	0.9	5.4
FEB	44	21	42	8.8	0.8	5.4
MAR	50	26	32	10.0	1.2	6.9
APR	59	33	25	10.8	1.0	4.0
MAY	68	42	23	10.5	1.2	0
JUN	78	51	22	9.9	1.4	0
JUL	81	55	30	9.0	3.3	0
AUG	78	53	34	8.2	3.5	0
SEP	71	47	35	8.5	2.1	0
OCT	62	38	35	8.2	1.3	1.0
NOV	49	27	38	7.9	1.0	4.0
DEC	41	19	46	7.7	1.1	7.0

Leelanau Peninsula, MI

Rank: 198

Location: 45.01 N and 85.45 W at 656 feet in the north-west mainland on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. Southeast, Traverse City is 20 miles and Detroit 270 miles.

Landscape: Plains with hills. The peninsula is hilly, ranging from rolling to steep. Dunes predominate in the coastal areas, with lakes and bogs inland. Maples and cherry trees are common, as are pine, hemlock, and birch. Trilliums and other wildflowers grow in the hills. Swamp marigolds can be found in the bogslands.

Climate: Winters are severe, with frequent cold snaps and heavy snow. It is a long season, too, with the first frost on October 17 and the last frost on May 10. Summers, however, are mild and pleasant, thanks to the tempering effect of the Great Lakes. Autumns are cool and long. Cloudy to partly cloudy days are the norm throughout the year, but rainfall is light.

Summer mildness: 61

Seasonal affect: 9

Winter mildness: 7

Hazard free: 0

	64
	95
	206
	4
	155
	8
	137
	71
	34

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	30	17	77	11.5	2.2	29.1
FEB	33	17	75	10.7	1.5	16.0
MAR	42	24	72	11.1	2.0	11.0
APR	56	35	68	11.0	2.7	3.0
MAY	68	44	66	9.7	2.5	0.3
JUN	76	53	68	8.9	3.3	0
JUL	81	59	70	8.2	2.7	0
AUG	79	58	74	7.9	3.6	0
SEP	72	52	75	8.3	4.0	0
OCT	61	43	74	9.4	3.2	0.6
NOV	47	33	77	10.5	2.9	12.1
DEC	34	22	79	10.7	2.5	26.0

**Leesburg–Mount Dora, FL****Rank: 41**

Location: 28.48 N and 81.52 W at 80 feet, in Florida's central lakes region, 40 miles northwest of Orlando.

Landscape: Flat plains. Composed of lakes, rivers, forests, and sand hills, there is interesting variety. Withlacoochee State Forest is a typical mix of hardwood, longleaf, and slash pine. Aromatic and evergreen bayberry and sweet bay are scattered throughout.

Climate: Subtropical, with a small range of annual temperature change. Humid, hot summers are cooled by frequent afternoon thunderstorms. Winters are extremely mild, with warm days and cool nights. Frost season is quite short, lasting but a few weeks from the first frost on January 2 to the last frost by that month's end.

Summer mildness: 15**Seasonal affect:** 65**Winter mildness:** 87**Hazard free:** 86

	92
	148
	125
	106
	4
	0
	27
	73
	82

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	70	47	56	8.9	2.7	0
FEB	71	48	52	9.6	3.3	0
MAR	76	53	50	9.9	3.5	0
APR	82	58	46	9.4	2.2	0
MAY	87	64	49	8.8	3.4	0
JUN	90	69	56	8.0	6.5	0
JUL	92	71	59	7.4	6.2	0
AUG	91	72	60	7.1	7.2	0
SEP	89	71	60	7.7	5.9	0
OCT	83	64	56	8.6	3.1	0
NOV	77	56	55	8.6	2.5	0
DEC	72	50	57	8.6	2.4	0

Litchfield Hills, CT**Rank: 169**

Location: 41.48 N and 73.07 W at 593 feet, in the state's northwest corner, some 35 miles northwest of Hartford.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The low Berkshire Mountain foothills surround the area, with many forest-rimmed lakes next to open fields and meadows. The woods are an eastern hardwood forest dominated by tall, broadleaf trees that provide dense cover in summer and brilliant color in fall and are bare in winter. Common varieties are maple, oak, beech, birch, walnut, ash, and sweet chestnut.

Climate: Hot continental, with large temperature variations from season to season. Winters receive Canadian air that sweeps down the Hudson Valley to the west. First frost descends on October 2 and deepens until the last frost on May 14. December to February is cold with long-lasting snow. Spring is short. Summers are clear, warm, and ideal. Falls extend to mid-November. Precipitation is moderate and evenly distributed throughout the year.

Summer mildness: 96**Seasonal affect:** 9**Winter mildness:** 17**Hazard free:** 19

	81
	109
	175
	0
	165
	14
	29
	90
	21

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	27	11	58	9.0	4.0	16.3
FEB	30	12	57	9.4	3.9	14.1
MAR	40	22	53	9.9	4.2	10.7
APR	52	32	49	10.0	4.5	2.0
MAY	65	43	49	8.9	4.6	0
JUN	73	52	55	8.1	4.6	0
JUL	78	58	55	7.5	4.2	0
AUG	75	56	57	7.2	4.6	0
SEP	68	48	59	7.3	4.1	0
OCT	56	38	59	7.8	3.9	0
NOV	44	29	60	8.5	4.6	4.0
DEC	32	17	62	8.7	4.4	15.1

Long Beach Peninsula, WA**Rank: 131**

Location: 46.39 N and 123.48 W at 110 feet on the Pacific Ocean at a point where explorers Lewis and Clark ended their expedition west. At 28 continuous miles, Long Beach is the country's longest stretch of sand and surf. The Columbia River is immediately south.

Landscape: Low mountains to the east. At the lowest elevations, there is a dense conifer forest of Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, grand fir, silver fir, Sitka spruce, and Alaska cedar. Numerous species of shrubs grow exceptionally well in this forest and around its margins.

Climate: Because this location is directly on the Pacific Ocean, its climate is characterized by generally mild average temperatures ranging from 35°F to 70°F throughout the year. Rainfall is heavy, 30 to 150 inches per year, with a maximum in winter. Humidity is always high. The southern part of this area is winter-wet with no snow; fog partially compensates for the summer drought. The first frost arrives November 12 and the last frost departs April 10.

Summer mildness: 72**Seasonal affect:** 2**Winter mildness:** 51**Hazard free:** 47

	68
	74
	223
	10
	44
	0
	56
	103
	6

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	47	32	81	11.2	5.4	1.0
FEB	51	34	77	10.7	3.9	0.5
MAR	54	35	73	11.2	3.6	0.5
APR	57	37	71	11.0	2.4	0
MAY	63	42	69	9.7	2.1	0
JUN	68	46	67	8.9	1.5	0
JUL	73	49	64	8.2	0.6	0
AUG	74	49	65	7.9	1.1	0
SEP	71	46	68	8.3	1.8	0
OCT	62	40	76	9.4	2.7	0
NOV	52	37	81	10.5	5.3	0
DEC	47	33	83	10.7	6.1	1.0

**Loudoun County, VA****Rank: 190**

Location: The weather station is Leesburg, the county seat, sitting at 39.00 N and 77.00 W at 320 feet in extreme northeast Virginia. Maryland is east across the Potomac River. Washington, D.C., is 35 miles southeast.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The surrounding naturally occurring trees are remnants of a northeastern hardwood forest composed of birch, beech, maple, elm, red oak, and basswood, with an admixture of hemlock and white pine.

Climate: Temperate mid-latitude climate. Summers are warm and humid, winters mild. Typically, the best weather is in the spring and autumn. The coldest weather occurs in late January and early February; the warmest month is July. There are no pronounced wet and dry seasons. Thunderstorms during the summer often bring sudden heavy rains and damaging winds, hail, or lightning. In winter, snow accumulations of more than 10 inches are rare. The first frost arrives October 28 and the last frost departs April 14.

Summer mildness: 13**Seasonal affect:** 8**Winter mildness:** 41**Hazard free:** 36

	97
	105
	163
	34
	71
	0
	127
	87
	28

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	42	42	63	10.0	2.7	5.3
FEB	46	46	61	10.4	2.7	5.3
MAR	57	57	60	10.9	3.2	2.1
APR	67	67	60	10.5	2.7	0
MAY	76	76	63	9.3	3.7	0
JUN	85	85	64	8.9	3.4	0
JUL	89	89	65	8.3	3.8	0
AUG	87	87	68	8.1	3.9	0
SEP	80	80	69	8.4	3.3	0
OCT	69	69	67	8.7	3.0	0
NOV	58	58	65	9.3	3.1	0.8
DEC	47	47	65	9.6	3.1	3.1

Lower Cape May, NJ**Rank: 123**

Location: 38.56 N and 74.54 W at 10 feet, where the Intracoastal Waterway swings into Delaware Bay. Atlantic City is 50 miles north, Philadelphia 85 miles northwest.

Landscape: Flat plains. Surrounding flat terrain is composed of tidal marshes and beach sand. The Wildwood resorts are on a barrier island to the northeast. The interior woods are evergreen and laurel.

Climate: Continental, but the moderating influence of the Atlantic is apparent throughout the year. Summers are cooler, winters warmer than those of other places at the same latitude. During the warm season, sea breezes in the late morning and afternoon prevent excessive heat. On occasion, these may lower the temperature between 15 and 20 degrees within a half-hour. Fall is long, lasting to mid-November. Warming is somewhat delayed in spring. The first frost arrives November 12 and the last frost departs March 30. Precipitation is moderate and well distributed throughout the year.

Summer mildness: 70**Seasonal affect:** 38**Winter mildness:** 30**Hazard free:** 43

	95
	110
	160
	8
	72
	0
	44
	64
	21

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	40	26	62	11.0	3.5	4.8
FEB	42	28	59	11.4	3.2	5.4
MAR	50	35	56	11.9	3.9	2.8
APR	59	43	54	11.8	3.4	0
MAY	68	52	55	10.2	3.5	0
JUN	78	61	56	9.2	3.2	0
JUL	83	67	57	8.5	3.3	0
AUG	82	67	58	8.1	3.7	0
SEP	77	60	58	8.4	3.0	0
OCT	66	50	57	9.0	3.1	0
NOV	56	41	57	10.5	3.2	0
DEC	46	31	62	10.6	3.5	2.1

Madison, MS**Rank: 117**

Location: 32.00 N and 90.00 W at 340 feet on the historic Natchez Trace Trail some 15 miles north of Jackson.

Landscape: Irregular, alluvial plains. Rolling hills of the central coastal plain are predominant but there are bluffs along the river. Forests are mixed broadleaf deciduous and southern yellow pine.

Climate: Humid maritime climate. One short cold season and one long warm one, and humid year-round. The frost-free period totals 235 days. In summer, the southerly winds and accompanying warm Gulf air masses predominate, resulting in significant humidity. Summer days are hot and the nights aren't much different. In winter, colder northern air occasionally invades the region, causing rapid and sometimes dramatic temperature shifts. The first frost arrives November 1 and the last frost departs March 29.

Summer mildness: 0**Seasonal affect:** 32**Winter mildness:** 89**Hazard free:** 63

	111
	104
	150
	84
	50
	0
	195
	72
	63

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	56	56	76	8.4	5.2	0.5
FEB	60	60	74	8.6	4.7	0.2
MAR	69	69	72	9.1	5.8	0.2
APR	77	77	73	8.5	5.6	0
MAY	84	84	74	7.3	5.1	0
JUN	91	91	74	6.4	3.2	0
JUL	92	92	77	5.9	4.5	0
AUG	92	92	77	5.6	3.8	0
SEP	88	88	76	6.4	3.6	0
OCT	79	79	73	6.5	3.3	0
NOV	69	69	74	7.6	4.8	0
DEC	60	60	76	8.3	5.9	0

**Madison, WI****Rank: 192**

Location: 43.0423 N and 89.2404 W at 860 feet in southern Wisconsin on an 8-block-wide stretch of land between Lakes Mendota and Monona. Milwaukee is 75 miles east.

Landscape: Open hills. The metro area includes 18,000 acres of lake surface, which is frozen over from December to April. Outside the urban area, dairy farms predominate, with field crops of corn, oats, alfalfa, apples, strawberries, and raspberries.

Climate: Continental. Like much of the interior of North America, summer high and winter low temperatures are extreme, with much variation within seasons. Winters are long and cold due to frequent blasts of arctic air. Even so, the first frost doesn't arrive until October 3, though the last frost will delay leaving until May 6. Snowfall is moderate, however. Summers are warm and often humid.

Summer mildness: 53**Seasonal affect:** 21**Winter mildness:** 4**Hazard free:** 11

	90
	96
	179
	7
	159
	22
	140
	64
	40

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	24	6	74	10.5	1.2	8.2
FEB	29	10	73	10.4	1.2	7.3
MAR	41	23	72	11.2	2.6	9.6
APR	57	35	68	11.4	3.2	2.1
MAY	68	46	67	10.0	3.4	0.2
JUN	78	55	69	9.2	3.8	0
JUL	82	60	72	8.1	4.1	0
AUG	79	58	75	8.0	4.4	0
SEP	71	49	76	8.7	3.7	0
OCT	59	39	73	9.6	2.4	0.2
NOV	43	26	76	10.8	2.2	3.3
DEC	29	12	78	10.3	1.8	9.2

Marble Falls–Lake LBJ, TX**Rank: 78**

Location: 30.45 N and 98.25 W at 1,270 feet, on the Colorado River at the northern end of the Highland Lakes region, 50 miles northwest of Austin.

Landscape: Open high hills in central Texas. Granite cliffs, limestone bluffs, and caverns are prominent geologic features. Cedar and oak are prevalent; cypress trees grow on the banks of rivers; and Texas bluebonnet and other wildflowers bloom profusely with sufficient spring rainfall.

Climate: Prairie. Summer days are hot but nights pleasantly cool. Winters are mild with few cold spells that also tend to be brief. The first frost arrives November 8; the season's last frost departs March 23. Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year. Humidity is generally comfortable.

Summer mildness: 25**Seasonal affect:** 79**Winter mildness:** 48**Hazard free:** 69

	117
	115
	134
	118
	55
	0
	23
	40
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	58	32	60	9.7	1.7	0.5
FEB	62	36	59	10.2	2.0	0.3
MAR	69	44	56	10.8	2.1	0
APR	77	54	57	10.5	2.7	0
MAY	83	61	60	9.6	4.8	0
JUN	89	68	56	9.1	3.5	0
JUL	93	70	51	8.3	1.9	0
AUG	93	70	50	7.9	2.0	0
SEP	87	64	55	7.9	3.5	0
OCT	79	53	55	8.1	3.5	0
NOV	68	44	58	9.0	2.1	0
DEC	60	35	59	9.2	1.5	0

Mariposa, CA**Rank: 38**

Location: 37.29 N and 119.57 W at 1,962 feet, 15 miles southwest of Yosemite National Park. Merced and California's central valley lie another 20 miles southwest. San Francisco is 150 miles west.

Landscape: High mountains. Lying in a canyon valley in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas, the area is surrounded by ranchland, and the hills are covered with a mixed forest of oak and pine. Part of Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest fall within Mariposa County.

Climate: Continental. The area is protected from the humid air of the Pacific, so warm summers and dry, cool winters are the norm. A rain shadow effect is cast, so winter snow and summer thunderstorms are rare. It does freeze, with the first frost around November 12; the last frost leaves with the tax return, April 15.

Summer mildness: 51**Seasonal affect:** 77**Winter mildness:** 68**Hazard free:** 58

	189
	75
	100
	83
	64
	0
	34
	43
	14

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	55	32	80	7.3	5.6	4.3
FEB	59	34	75	7.6	5.0	3.1
MAR	61	36	65	8.7	5.3	3.0
APR	67	40	55	8.7	2.7	0
MAY	77	45	48	9.4	0.8	0
JUN	87	51	44	9.7	0.2	0
JUL	95	57	44	9.1	0.1	0
AUG	94	56	45	8.6	0.2	0
SEP	87	51	45	7.5	0.6	0
OCT	77	43	53	6.4	1.8	0
NOV	62	36	65	6.0	4.8	0
DEC	54	32	77	6.6	4.6	2.7



Martha's Vineyard, MA

Rank: 172

Location: The weather station is Edgartown, 41.23 N and 70.32 W at 20 feet on southeast Martha's Vineyard, and 27 miles southeast of New Bedford in the Atlantic and 70 miles south of Boston.

Landscape: Irregular plains. On a 100-square-mile island reachable by ferry off the southeast Massachusetts coast, separated from the Elizabeth Islands and Cape Cod by Vineyard and Nantucket sounds. As a result of glaciation, the island has morainal hills composed of boulders and clay deposits in the north, and low, sandy plains in the south. The island once was thickly covered by typical deciduous trees of the northeast forest, but now is relatively bare.

Climate: Mild, cool, and maritime with a distinct four-season climate of warm, damp, foggy summers; cold, wet winters; brief springs; and a long, bright, and pleasant fall. The first frost arrives October 22 and the last frost departs April 28.

Summer mildness: 66

Winter mildness: 11

Seasonal affect: 26

Hazard free: 28

	98
	104
	163
	3
	118
	1
	24
	75
	19

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	38	24	64	13.8	3.8	9.1
FEB	38	25	62	13.8	3.6	9.8
MAR	45	31	62	13.7	3.9	6.1
APR	54	38	60	13.2	4.1	0
MAY	63	46	63	12.2	4.0	0
JUN	72	55	66	11.5	3.4	0
JUL	78	61	67	11.0	2.9	0
AUG	78	61	68	10.8	3.6	0
SEP	71	56	69	11.3	3.5	0
OCT	62	48	67	12.0	3.8	0
NOV	53	39	67	12.9	4.4	0
DEC	43	29	66	13.6	4.3	5.0

Maryville, TN

Rank: 148

Location: 35.45 N and 83.58 W at 945 feet, in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee. Knoxville is 16 miles north.

Landscape: Low mountains. To the east are the highest peaks in eastern North America. In the nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a large stand of virgin red spruce. Common trees are hickory, oak, beech, birch, walnut, and maple. These tall broadleaf trees provide dense foliage in summer and completely shed their leaves in winter. Low shrubs develop in spring.

Climate: Hot continental, characterized by hot, humid summers and cool, cloudy, and wet winters. Daily and seasonal temperature changes aren't abrupt. The first frost will come by October 27; the last frost leaves by April 13. On summer nights, there's a pleasant moderating effect where a steady wind, a draw caused by the many streams and waterfalls, pulls the cool air down from the mountains to the lowlands.

Summer mildness: 40

Winter mildness: 59

Seasonal affect: 15

Hazard free: 44

	97
	107
	161
	39
	95
	0
	31
	86
	47

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	46	26	65	7.9	4.2	4.1
FEB	51	29	61	8.3	4.1	3.7
MAR	61	37	56	8.7	5.1	1.5
APR	70	45	53	8.6	3.7	0
MAY	78	53	60	7.0	4.1	0
JUN	85	62	61	6.5	4.0	0
JUL	87	66	63	6.1	4.7	0
AUG	87	65	63	5.6	3.1	0
SEP	81	59	62	5.8	3.1	0
OCT	71	46	57	5.8	2.8	0
NOV	60	38	60	6.9	3.8	0
DEC	50	30	66	7.3	4.5	1.6

★ Maui, HI

Rank: 13

Location: The weather station is Lahaina, 20.52 N and 156.41 W at 20 feet, on the island's west coast, 125 air miles from Honolulu.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. At 728 square miles, Maui is the second-largest island of the Hawaiian chain. Created by two volcanoes, which make up east and west peninsulas connected by a valley-like isthmus 7 miles wide, hence the nickname of Valley Isle. The peaks of west Maui rise to almost 6,000 feet, and those to the south-east to over 10,000 feet. Native plants include varieties of fern and palm, shrub, forest, bog, and moss lichen.

Climate: Mild marine tropical. Daily and seasonal temperature changes are small. Summer days can be hot, owing to high humidity. There's marked variation in rainfall depending on the season and place. Leeward coastal areas are drier than the lower mountains of western Maui. Winds are persistently from the northeast. Severe storms are rare.

Summer mildness: 37

Winter mildness: 74

Seasonal affect: 90

Hazard free: 95

	54
	182
	129
	17
	0
	0
	0
	19
	8

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	82	64	74	10.9	3.5	0
FEB	82	63	73	11.4	2.4	0
MAR	83	64	72	12.4	1.8	0
APR	84	65	72	13.2	1.1	0
MAY	85	67	72	12.5	0.6	0
JUN	87	68	70	12.9	0.1	0
JUL	88	69	70	13.5	0.2	0
AUG	88	70	71	12.8	0.2	0
SEP	89	70	71	11.5	0.3	0
OCT	88	69	75	11.3	1.1	0
NOV	86	67	74	12.0	2.2	0
DEC	83	65	74	11.5	3.2	0

**McAllen–Alamo, TX****Rank: 47**

Location: 26.12 N and 98.13 W at 124 feet, on the border with Mexico in the lower Rio Grande Valley of southern-most Texas. The Rio Grande empties into the Gulf of Mexico 75 miles east of here.

Landscape: Smooth plains. Flat topography with little relief. Date palms, bougainvillea, and winter poinsettias color the valley towns, but the native upland sage and chaparral have lost out to intensive development, both agricultural and urban.

Climate: Subtropical, influenced by the Gulf of Mexico. The valley is usually windy. Winters are clear, with warm days and cool nights. The frost arrives late in December and departs by the end of January. Summers are long, hot, and humid. The Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains in Mexico block dry air from the Chihuahuan Desert, but both affect the climate of this river plain.

Summer mildness: 9**Seasonal affect:** 79**Winter mildness:** 65**Hazard free:** 93

	98
	132
	135
	90°
	157
	32°
	4
	0°
	0
	27
	34
	26

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	68	47	67	11.3	1.4	0
FEB	72	50	63	12.1	1.3	0
MAR	80	57	59	13.4	0.6	0
APR	86	64	59	13.9	1.3	0
MAY	89	70	60	13.1	2.8	0
JUN	93	73	59	12.0	2.7	0
JUL	95	74	55	11.3	1.7	0
AUG	96	74	56	10.3	2.4	0
SEP	92	72	60	9.4	4.4	0
OCT	87	64	59	9.5	2.6	0
NOV	79	56	60	10.7	1.0	0
DEC	71	49	65	10.8	1.1	0

McCall, ID**Rank: 158**

Location: 44.54 N and 116.06 W at 5,031 feet in the Payette River Valley 100 miles north of Boise.

Landscape: High mountains. Slopes vary from the flat river and lake bottomlands to rolling foothills and steep mountain slopes. Though all aspects are found, most face east and west. Elevations range from about 4,800 to 7,500 feet. Mixed coniferous-deciduous forest predominates. The area's major parent material is granite from the Idaho Batholith. A small area in the northwestern part of the county is underlain by basalt of the Columbia River formation.

Climate: Highland continental characterized by wide daily and seasonal temperature changes. Winters are severe, with among the heaviest snowfall amounts of any retirement places profiled here. First frost comes early, by August 26; last frost occurs June 23. Summer days are warm to hot and usually dry because westerly air masses draw the dry climate of the Pacific Coast.

Summer mildness: 95**Seasonal affect:** 37**Winter mildness:** 10**Hazard free:** 10

	120
	90
	155
	90°
	4
	32°
	224
	0°
	18
	51
	54
	15

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	31	22	76	8.0	3.8	14.0
FEB	37	28	70	8.9	2.8	13.0
MAR	42	32	60	9.9	2.6	10.0
APR	51	37	53	9.9	2.0	9.0
MAY	62	44	52	9.5	2.1	5.0
JUN	71	52	49	9.0	2.1	0
JUL	81	58	38	8.4	0.8	0
AUG	80	57	38	8.2	1.2	0
SEP	70	48	44	8.2	1.7	1.0
OCT	58	39	53	8.3	1.9	9.0
NOV	41	31	69	8.4	3.2	12.0
DEC	32	23	76	8.1	3.5	13.0

Medford–Ashland, OR**Rank: 42**

Location: 42.19 N and 122.52 W at 1,374 feet, in south-west Oregon, 25 miles north of the California border.

Landscape: High mountains. Located in a mountain valley formed by the Rogue River and Bear Creek. The valley's outlet to the ocean 80 miles west is the narrow Canyon of the Rogue. Principal trees of the dense coniferous Pacific forest are Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, silver fir, and Sitka spruce.

Climate: Moderate continental. Late fall, winter, and early spring are cloudy, damp, and cool. The remainder of the year is warm, dry, and sunny. The shadow afforded by the Siskiyou and the Coast Range results in lighter rainfall. Snowfalls are light and usually melt within 24 hours. Winters are mild, with temperatures just dipping below freezing during December and January nights. Summer days can reach 90°F, but nights are cool. Frost arrives by October 20 and leaves by April 30.

Summer mildness: 69**Seasonal affect:** 30**Winter mildness:** 78**Hazard free:** 73

	117
	79
	169
	90°
	53
	32°
	68
	0°
	0
	50
	62
	8

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	48	33	83	4.1	5.2	3.7
FEB	55	34	77	4.5	3.8	1.6
MAR	61	36	66	5.3	3.5	1.3
APR	67	38	57	5.7	1.8	0
MAY	75	44	50	5.7	1.2	0
JUN	83	50	42	5.9	0.5	0
JUL	90	53	38	5.8	0.2	0
AUG	90	53	39	5.3	0.5	0
SEP	83	47	42	4.5	0.9	0
OCT	70	41	58	3.7	2.4	0
NOV	54	38	80	3.6	5.3	0
DEC	46	34	85	3.6	5.7	2.3



★ Melbourne–Palm Bay, FL

Rank: 27

Location: 28.04 N and 80.36 W at 21 feet, on the Intracoastal Waterway in the center of Florida's Atlantic Coast, 58 miles southeast of Orlando.

Landscape: Flat plains. Florida coastal topography, with miles of hard, sandy beach. Inland, the land rises slightly to 30 feet. Native vegetation includes sea-oat grass, sea-grape, and cabbage palm.

Climate: Subtropical. Nearness to the Atlantic results in a climate tempered by land and sea breezes. Temperatures in summer may top 90°F during the late morning or early afternoon, but they're cut short by midday sea breezes, and afternoon convective thundershowers lower temperatures to comfortable levels. Winters can have cold airflows from the north, but they're usually mild because of the city's ocean setting and southerly latitude. There is hardly a freezing season, with frost arriving January 16 and departing a few days later, on January 19.

Summer mildness: 15

Seasonal affect: 68

Winter mildness: 90

Hazard free: 89

	99
	134
	133
	65
	2
	0
	28
	65
	77

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	71	51	58	8.7	2.2	0
FEB	72	51	56	9.2	2.8	0
MAR	77	56	56	9.9	2.7	0
APR	81	61	54	9.2	1.6	0
MAY	85	67	59	9.1	4.0	0
JUN	88	71	65	7.9	6.1	0
JUL	90	72	64	7.1	5.2	0
AUG	89	73	64	6.5	5.2	0
SEP	88	72	66	7.6	6.6	0
OCT	83	67	62	8.9	4.1	0
NOV	77	59	61	8.9	3.0	0
DEC	73	53	59	8.1	2.1	0

★ Mendocino–Fort Bragg, CA

Rank: 10

Location: 39.25 N and 123.21 W at 120 feet in a valley in the Coast Ranges of northwest California, 130 miles north of San Francisco.

Landscape: Low mountains are visible to the east. The location lies at the mouth of Big River. Redwood and pine timber are found in Mendocino National Forest off to the east and at Jackson State Forest to the west.

Climate: Mendocino experiences a short growing season, with late frosts in spring, early rains and frosts in fall, and higher average rainfall than Napa and Sonoma counties and the central coast. Summer daytime temperatures are warm, while cold nights often dip into the 30s. This dramatic fluctuation softens the tannins of locally produced cabernet sauvignon and zinfandel.

Summer mildness: 75

Seasonal affect: 67

Winter mildness: 64

Hazard free: 97

	160
	101
	104
	0
	11
	0
	100
	42
	0

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	57	46	76	7.2	6.5	0
FEB	57	49	75	8.7	5.5	0
MAR	58	49	73	10.5	6.0	0
APR	61	50	71	12.2	2.8	0
MAY	62	51	71	13.4	1.2	0
JUN	64	53	71	13.9	0.3	0
JUL	65	54	73	13.6	0.1	0
AUG	66	55	74	12.8	0.4	0
SEP	67	56	72	11.1	0.8	0
OCT	64	55	71	9.4	2.9	0
NOV	60	52	73	7.5	6.2	0
DEC	56	47	76	7.1	6.4	0

Middle Cape Cod, MA

Rank: 167

Location: The weather station is Harwich at 41.40 N and 70.04 W, at 19 feet and 60 miles southeast of Boston on a hooked peninsula jutting out 65 miles into the Atlantic Ocean.

Landscape: Irregular plains. The area falls between the hilly western end of the Cape and the flat and treeless eastern or "outer cape." The soil is sandy and arranged in hills and dunes. There are also marshes and lakes. Tree cover is mostly pinewood.

Climate: Cape Cod extends into the Gulf Stream, making for a markedly milder climate than that of the rest of southern New England. Summers are warm, but temperatures rarely exceed 90°F. Winters are mild, with light to moderate snowfall mixed with periods of thaw and rain. First frost arrives on October 22, last frost on April 28.

Summer mildness: 85

Seasonal affect: 20

Winter mildness: 9

Hazard free: 27

	99
	104
	162
	1
	122
	1
	24
	77
	19

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	38	21	57	13.9	3.8	9.1
FEB	38	22	56	13.8	3.6	9.8
MAR	45	29	56	13.7	3.9	6.1
APR	54	37	55	13.2	4.1	0.3
MAY	63	46	60	12.2	4.0	0
JUN	72	56	59	11.5	3.4	0
JUL	78	62	57	11.0	2.9	0
AUG	78	62	59	10.8	3.6	0
SEP	71	55	60	11.3	3.5	0
OCT	62	45	58	12.0	3.8	0
NOV	53	37	59	13.0	4.4	0.2
DEC	43	27	59	13.6	4.3	5.2

★ **Monadnock Region, NH****Rank: 200**

Location: 42.561 N and 72.1643 W at 487 feet, in south-western New Hampshire, 15 miles from the Vermont and Massachusetts borders.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The terrain is hilly to mountainous forestland. Nearby, Mount Monadnock rises to 3,165 feet, with Boston visible 85 miles southeast. The Connecticut River lies to the west and forms the border with Vermont. Vegetation is mixed forest, with pine and maple predominating. Mountain laurel and flowering dogwood are also common in this part of the state.

Climate: The typical New England climate makes for warm summers, long and pleasant autumns, cold winters, and short, wet springs. Heat waves are infrequent in summer, but cold snaps are common in winter. Frost comes in by September 25 and will not leave until May 19. Snowfall amounts can vary greatly from year to year, with limited thaws.

Summer mildness: 52**Seasonal affect:** 7**Winter mildness:** 3**Hazard free:** 9

	98
	104
	163
	13
	166
	18
	185
	81
	19

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	32	10	67	13.8	2.9	16.9
FEB	36	13	66	13.8	2.7	16.1
MAR	45	23	65	13.7	2.9	13.2
APR	59	33	62	13.2	3.2	2.8
MAY	71	44	62	12.2	3.8	0.1
JUN	79	53	67	11.5	3.6	0
JUL	84	57	68	11.0	3.6	0
AUG	82	56	71	10.8	3.9	0
SEP	73	48	73	11.3	3.0	0
OCT	62	37	71	12.0	3.2	0.1
NOV	49	30	72	12.9	3.5	3.9
DEC	36	17	71	13.6	3.3	16.1

★ **Montrose, CO****Rank: 85**

Location: 38.28 N and 107.52 W at 5,801 feet, in the Uncompahgre River Valley, 50 miles southeast of Grand Junction.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The sage desert and shortgrass prairie of the Colorado Plateau. The western vista is the Uncompahgre Plateau, rising over 9,000 feet. Ranchland and orchards mark the gently rolling lowland. Lakes and streams here are fed from mountain snows. The Uncompahgre River flows through steep canyons. Mixed forests of pine, spruce, and aspen cover the subalpine areas; sagebrush and cactus are found in the canyons.

Climate: Desert-steppe brings varied seasonal and daily temperature changes. Summers are dry and comfortable due to the high altitude. Winters are cold with moderate snow cover in the elevations through May. Winters are long, with the first frost arriving October 8 and the last frost not leaving until May 12. Humidity is low, and summer precipitation is scant but for brief mountain thunderstorms.

Summer mildness: 78**Seasonal affect:** 83**Winter mildness:** 26**Hazard free:** 26

	137
	107
	121
	34
	168
	7
	8
	27
	35

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	37	12	63	5.6	0.5	7.3
FEB	44	19	54	6.7	0.4	5.7
MAR	53	26	43	8.4	0.7	3.7
APR	62	34	33	9.5	0.8	2.0
MAY	72	42	32	9.6	0.9	0
JUN	83	51	26	9.7	0.6	0
JUL	88	57	28	9.3	1.0	0
AUG	86	54	31	9.0	1.1	0
SEP	77	46	33	8.9	1.2	0
OCT	66	35	38	7.9	1.1	0
NOV	50	25	49	6.7	0.8	4.0
DEC	40	16	60	5.9	0.7	7.5

★ **Morro Bay-Cambria, CA****Rank: 4**

Location: 35.21 N and 120.50 W at 89 feet, on the Pacific Ocean roughly 230 miles midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The Santa Lucia Mountains end in cliffs that slice into the ocean to the north, with sandy beaches elsewhere on the coast. Forests are mixed evergreen, with pine and cypress in abundance. Cultivated groves of almond, walnut, and apple trees are common, as are vineyards.

Climate: Weather is stable, ranging from mild and warm in summer to mild and cool in winter. Fog and cloudy mornings usually give way to bright sunshine with cool ocean breezes. The high elevation and coastal location are responsible for the consistently mild climate. There is a long growing season between the last frost of January 25 and the first frost of December 30.

Summer mildness: 63**Seasonal affect:** 86**Winter mildness:** 99**Hazard free:** 99

	147
	116
	103
	12
	3
	0
	19
	28
	4

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	63	42	57	4.8	5.0	0
FEB	65	43	58	6.3	4.6	0
MAR	65	43	60	6.7	3.8	0
APR	68	45	61	7.6	1.6	0
MAY	70	47	63	7.1	0.3	0
JUN	74	50	66	6.8	0.0	0
JUL	78	52	67	6.5	0.0	0
AUG	79	53	68	6.1	0.1	0
SEP	79	53	67	5.8	0.4	0
OCT	76	50	64	5.5	1.1	0
NOV	69	46	57	5.3	2.8	0
DEC	64	42	55	5.0	3.8	0

**Murray–Kentucky Lake, KY****Rank: 132**

Location: 36.36 N and 88.19 W at 480 feet, just above the Tennessee state line in the extreme western part of Kentucky. Nashville, Tennessee, is 100 miles southeast.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Kentucky Lake is one of the world's largest artificial lakes, formed more than 50 years ago by damming the Tennessee River. Relief is minimal. The surrounding country is gently rolling and heavily forested with oak, hickory, walnut, maple, elm, ash, and sweet chestnut, with lower layers of small trees and shrubs.

Climate: Hot continental, with moderately cold winters and warm, humid summers. Precipitation is ample and well distributed throughout the year. October 26 ushers in the first frost; April 5 sees the last frost out. Most days, even those in winter, are suitable for outdoor activity. Spring and fall are the most comfortable seasons. Fall, the sunniest season, is remarkably free from storms or cold.

Summer mildness: 44**Seasonal affect:** 36**Winter mildness:** 53**Hazard free:** 40

	109
	99
	157
	51
	84
	1
	20
	74
	60

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	43	25	62	9.3	3.8	4.3
FEB	49	29	65	9.2	4.4	3.1
MAR	60	39	57	9.6	5.1	2.4
APR	71	48	50	8.6	5.1	0
MAY	79	57	56	7.5	4.9	0
JUN	87	65	55	6.5	4.1	0
JUL	90	68	58	6.1	4.7	0
AUG	88	67	59	5.6	3.6	0
SEP	82	60	56	6.2	3.9	0
OCT	71	48	56	6.9	3.6	0
NOV	59	40	61	8.9	5.2	0
DEC	48	30	63	8.9	5.3	1.0

Myrtle Beach, SC**Rank: 93**

Location: 33.41 N and 78.53 W at 30 feet, 100 miles northeast of Charleston.

Landscape: Flat plains. The area known as the Grand Strand is flat, has a populated area only a few blocks wide, and extends 60 miles up and down the shore. Elevations are no greater than 50 feet above sea level. There are many more wooded areas than are usually found in a beach area. The beaches themselves are white sand. Inland is low and swampy, with stands of southern yellow pine mixed with hickory, sweet gum, and other deciduous trees. The grasses are bluestem, panicums, and longleaf uniola in the coastal marshes.

Climate: Subtropical. Mild winters and warm summers are the rule. The ocean has a pronounced modifying effect on temperatures, and the Blue Ridge Mountains block cold air from the interior. Some tropical storms reach the area every few years. First frost comes by November 20; the last frost leaves by March 11.

Summer mildness: 27**Seasonal affect:** 52**Winter mildness:** 66**Hazard free:** 59

	112
	104
	150
	45
	35
	0
	24
	72
	47

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	58	36	56	9.1	3.9	0.5
FEB	62	38	52	9.8	3.7	0.6
MAR	69	45	52	10.2	4.2	0.3
APR	76	52	48	10.3	2.7	0
MAY	83	61	55	9.2	4.4	0
JUN	87	68	59	8.5	5.6	0
JUL	90	71	63	8.0	6.5	0
AUG	89	71	64	7.4	6.5	0
SEP	85	66	62	7.9	5.2	0
OCT	78	55	56	8.1	4.0	0
NOV	70	47	53	8.1	3.1	0
DEC	62	39	55	8.5	3.5	0.3

★ Naples, FL**Rank: 30**

Location: 26.08 N and 81.47 W at 9 feet, on Florida's Gulf of Mexico coast, 25 miles south of Ft. Myers.

Landscape: Flat plains. The area lies on a 7-mile mainland beach. Nearby are mangrove islands. To the east is the Big Cypress Swamp, and beyond, the Everglades. Native vegetation includes cypress, evergreen oaks, laurel, small palms, and tropical shrubs.

Climate: Subtropical. Summer and winter temperature extremes are checked by the influence of the Gulf. Summer heat is exacerbated by humidity. Winters have many bright, warm days and moderately cool nights. Rainfall averages more than 50 inches annually, with two-thirds coming daily between June and September. Most rain falls as late-afternoon or early-evening thunderstorms, bringing welcome relief from the heat.

Summer mildness: 11**Seasonal affect:** 68**Winter mildness:** 96**Hazard free:** 83

	102
	142
	121
	101
	0
	0
	21
	72
	93

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	76	53	56	8.6	1.7	0
FEB	77	54	56	9.2	2.2	0
MAR	81	58	53	9.5	2.3	0
APR	85	61	47	9.3	1.5	0
MAY	88	66	49	8.7	4.1	0
JUN	90	71	56	8.0	8.6	0
JUL	91	72	60	7.2	7.8	0
AUG	92	73	60	7.0	8.2	0
SEP	91	72	60	7.8	8.4	0
OCT	87	67	56	8.5	3.1	0
NOV	82	61	56	8.4	1.8	0
DEC	78	55	56	8.5	1.4	0

**Natchitoches, LA****Rank: 119**

Location: 31.46 N and 93.06 W at 130 feet in northwest Louisiana, 65 miles southeast from Shreveport and 225 miles east of Dallas, Texas.

Landscape: Irregular plains. The topography is gently sloping, with relief varying between 100 and 250 feet. Most of the numerous streams are sluggish; marshes, swamps, and lakes are numerous. The naturally occurring forest is laurel, magnolia, and evergreen oak.

Climate: Moderately uniform throughout the year: Mild winters and hot summers are the rule. Precipitation exceeds evaporation, but summer droughts occur. The growing season is long, but frost occurs every winter. The first frost arrives November 11 and the last frost departs March 10. Snow falls rarely but melts almost immediately.

Summer mildness: 2**Seasonal affect:** 48**Winter mildness:** 77**Hazard free:** 57

	114
	100
	151
	90
	36
	0
	107
	64
	57

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	57	35	74	9.2	4.9	0.8
FEB	62	38	71	9.6	4.6	0.5
MAR	70	46	70	10.1	4.7	0.2
APR	78	54	72	9.7	4.3	0
MAY	85	62	75	8.3	6.0	0
JUN	91	69	75	7.5	4.3	0
JUL	94	72	74	7.1	3.5	0
AUG	93	71	73	6.7	3.2	0
SEP	88	66	74	7.2	3.4	0
OCT	79	54	72	7.4	3.8	0
NOV	69	45	73	8.5	4.2	0
DEC	60	37	74	8.9	6.1	0.2

Nelson County, VA**Rank: 164**

Location: The weather station is Lovingson, the county seat, sitting at 37.45 N and 78.52 W at 760 feet. Visible to the northwest are the Blue Ridge Mountains. Charlottesville is 30 miles north.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The country is agricultural and forested by a remnant of the northeastern hardwood forest. Birch, beech, maple, elm, red oak, and basswood, with some hemlock and white pine, predominate.

Climate: Temperate mid-latitude climate. Summers are warm and humid, winters mild. Typically, the best weather is in the spring and autumn. The coldest weather occurs in late January and early February; the warmest month is July. There are no pronounced wet and dry seasons. Thunderstorms during the summer often bring sudden heavy rains and damaging winds, hail, or lightning. In winter, snow accumulations of more than 10 inches are rare. The first frost arrives November 4 and the last frost departs April 7.

Summer mildness: 36**Seasonal affect:** 27**Winter mildness:** 50**Hazard free:** 31

	112
	107
	147
	31
	92
	0
	122
	75
	32

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	23	63	8.6	3.2	7.2
FEB	48	25	61	8.6	3.2	7.6
MAR	59	33	61	9.1	3.9	6.3
APR	69	41	59	9.0	3.3	0.5
MAY	76	50	67	7.5	4.6	0
JUN	84	59	69	6.9	3.2	0
JUL	87	64	72	6.5	4.6	0
AUG	86	63	74	6.3	3.6	0
SEP	80	56	73	6.9	3.7	0
OCT	70	44	69	7.3	4.4	0
NOV	61	36	66	7.9	3.4	1.5
DEC	49	27	65	7.9	3.2	4.5

New Bern, NC**Rank: 147**

Location: 35.06 N and 77.02 W at 15 feet, on a triangle of land where the Neuse and Trent rivers meet and empty into Pamlico Sound. Raleigh is 100 miles northwest. The Atlantic Ocean is 35 miles east.

Landscape: Flat plains. In this central tidewater savanna are bluffs, marshes, lakes, and rivers. Narrow-leafed grasses are found in the salt marshes; cattails, ricegrass, and parrotfeathers are found in the freshwater marshes. The trees are oak-hickory, not as tall, with smaller and more leathery leaves, and a sparse canopy. In town are live oak, laurel, holly, and magnolia, with underbrush of shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Climate: Subtropical, with humid, hot summers and mild winters. Rain falls throughout the year. Spring and summer can bring heavy thunderstorms. Occasional tropical storms from the Atlantic may strike this coastal location. Since first frost comes November 9 and the last frost leaves March 23, the growing season is relatively long.

Summer mildness: 34**Seasonal affect:** 36**Winter mildness:** 42**Hazard free:** 49

	106
	107
	152
	39
	53
	0
	20
	77
	49

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	54	33	56	12.1	4.3	1.1
FEB	57	35	52	12.3	4.2	1.0
MAR	65	42	52	12.0	3.9	0.8
APR	73	50	48	11.8	3.2	0
MAY	80	59	55	10.9	4.6	0
JUN	86	66	59	10.7	5.4	0
JUL	88	71	63	10.0	7.0	0
AUG	87	70	64	9.5	6.6	0
SEP	83	64	62	10.5	5.1	0
OCT	75	53	56	11.1	3.0	0
NOV	67	44	53	11.0	3.2	0
DEC	58	36	55	11.5	3.7	0.3



New Braunfels, TX

Rank: 68

Location: 29.42 N and 98.07 W at 623 feet, on the Balcones Escarpment in south-central Texas. San Antonio is 30 miles southwest.

Landscape: Open high hills amid arid grassland with shrubs and low trees and low hills. The deep, winding Comal River flows into the Guadalupe River. While the spring-fed Comal is predictably smooth and safe, conditions on the white-water Guadalupe frequently change. Nearby Landa Park, Natural Bridge Caverns, and Canyon Lake mark the region. Caladium grows along the riverbanks. As the land rises to the Edwards Plateau, oak, hickory, and juniper mix with mesquite and buffalo grass. Open grassland and savanna are less common because ranching is predominant.

Climate: Prairie, with warm days and cool nights in winter and a long, hot summer. Though miles from the Gulf, the area is influenced by moist, marine air. Most of the annual precipitation falls as rain in May and September. The first frost comes at Thanksgiving, around November 26, and the last frost is out early, by March 9.

Summer mildness: 19

Seasonal affect: 74

Winter mildness: 59

Hazard free: 76

	108
	118
	139
	122
	28
	0
	22
	46
	37

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	37	59	9.0	1.9	0.1
FEB	65	40	57	9.7	2.2	0.4
MAR	73	48	54	10.4	1.8	0
APR	81	56	56	10.3	2.6	0
MAY	86	64	59	10.0	5.0	0
JUN	92	70	56	9.9	4.1	0
JUL	95	72	51	9.2	2.0	0
AUG	96	72	51	8.5	2.5	0
SEP	90	68	55	8.5	4.1	0
OCT	82	57	54	8.4	3.5	0
NOV	72	48	55	8.8	2.8	0
DEC	63	39	57	8.5	2.0	0

Newport-Lincoln City, OR

Rank: 70

Location: 44.38 N and 124.03 W at 177 feet, on Oregon's Pacific Coast, 55 miles west of Salem.

Landscape: Low mountains. Parts of the cities sit at the water's edge, and more are built on level bench land about 150 feet above sea level. Just to the east, the foothills of the Coast Range begin a steep ascent to ridges 2,000 to 3,000 feet high. The principal trees of the dense Pacific conifer forests nearby are Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, silver fir, and Sitka spruce.

Climate: Marine climate typical of Oregon's coastal area. Temperature extremes are almost nonexistent. Warm, moist air from the Pacific makes summers mild and pleasant. In winter, the air releases moisture over the cold land-mass, resulting in a constant cloud cover and rain from November to March. Most of the annual precipitation falls during these months. The first frost arrives November 18; the last frost leaves April 16.

Summer mildness: 75

Seasonal affect: 3

Winter mildness: 68

Hazard free: 81

	49
	78
	238
	0
	30
	0
	41
	126
	7

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	50	38	80	9.1	11.1	0.8
FEB	53	39	79	9.1	8.1	0.2
MAR	54	39	77	9.0	8.2	0.4
APR	55	40	72	8.7	4.8	0
MAY	59	43	71	8.5	3.5	0
JUN	62	48	71	8.6	2.7	0
JUL	65	50	73	8.7	1.0	0
AUG	65	50	73	8.1	1.3	0
SEP	65	48	72	7.6	2.6	0
OCT	61	45	77	7.6	5.4	0
NOV	55	42	78	8.8	10.9	0
DEC	51	38	80	9.1	12.3	0.6

Norfolk Lake, AR

Rank: 143

Location: 36.20 N and 92.23 W at 756 feet, near the center of the Arkansas-Missouri border, 100 air miles north of Little Rock.

Landscape: High hills. Though in the center of the Ozark Mountains, gently rolling hills surround Lake Norfolk, formed decades ago by damming the White River. The thick woods are broadleaf deciduous forests of oak, hickory, maple, sweet gum, and walnut.

Climate: Hot continental, with warm summers and winters of mild days and freezing nights. In a given year, the climate can vary from warm and humid maritime to cold and dry continental, but it's relatively free from climatic extremes. Winters may be cold enough for snow, but an icy rain is more typical during brief, intense cold snaps. First frost has hit by October 26; last frost strikes April 6, bringing an early spring that is pleasant.

Summer mildness: 45

Seasonal affect: 59

Winter mildness: 28

Hazard free: 34

	116
	97
	153
	56
	90
	1
	20
	63
	56

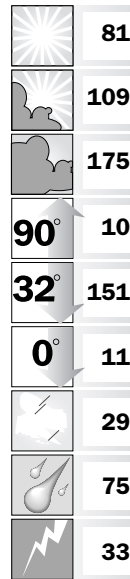
	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	23	60	11.7	2.5	3.1
FEB	50	27	60	11.9	3.0	3.2
MAR	60	37	56	12.9	4.4	2.0
APR	71	47	55	12.2	4.1	0
MAY	78	55	59	10.4	4.9	0
JUN	85	63	59	9.6	4.1	0
JUL	91	67	56	8.5	2.6	0
AUG	90	66	54	8.6	2.9	0
SEP	82	59	58	9.3	4.1	0
OCT	73	47	54	10.1	3.3	0
NOV	59	37	59	11.3	4.4	1.0
DEC	48	27	63	11.6	3.8	1.6

**Northampton–Amherst, MA****Rank: 170**

Location: 42.22 N and 72.31 W at 320 feet, in the western part of the state, 70 miles west of Boston and 20 miles north of Springfield.

Landscape: Open low mountains. Situated in the center of the long Connecticut Valley, with the Berkshire Hills of the Appalachians visible to the west. This is the Berkshire Taconic forest plateau with curved ridges covered by diverse and transitional forests of red oak, beech, birch, walnut, sugar maple, elm, and sweet chestnut. Cottonwood, basswood, or silver maple found in poorly drained coves. There are areas of isolated wetlands. Quabbin Reservoir lies to the east.

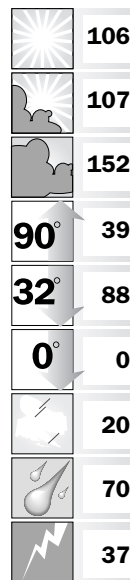
Climate: Hot continental, with typical New England seasonal temperature extremes. Summers are generally mild and free of thunderstorms, but with occasional hot, muggy days. September 29 heralds the first frost; May 9 bids the last frost adieu. Winters are long with a snow cover that's deep and lasting.

Summer mildness: 77**Seasonal affect:** 16**Winter mildness:** 25**Hazard free:** 20**Northern Neck, VA****Rank: 151**

Location: 37.46 N and 76.28 W at 98 feet, on a peninsula between Virginia's Rappahannock and Potomac rivers extending into Chesapeake Bay. Richmond is 40 miles southeast.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Tidewater country of low hills, streams, and marsh of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The woods inland are a typical southeastern mixed forest, with tall oak, hickory, sweet gum, red maple, and winged elm. At least half of the stands are filled with second-growth loblolly and shortleaf pine. Coastal marshes and interior wetlands are dominated by gums and cypress trees, cattails, and rush. An understory of dogwood, viburnum, blueberry, youpon, and numerous woody vines is prevalent.

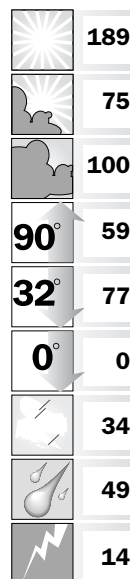
Climate: Subtropical, with mild winters and hot, humid summers. Spring and autumn are especially pleasant. First frost of October 22 will set the woods in color; last frost of April 15 will signal spring greening. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year, mostly as rain. Thunderstorms are likely in mid-summer.

Summer mildness: 43**Seasonal affect:** 55**Winter mildness:** 29**Hazard free:** 30**Oakhurst–Coarsegold, CA****Rank: 39**

Location: 37.19 N and 119.39 W at 2,289 feet, in California's Southern Mines country in the Sierra foothills. San Francisco is 150 miles west.

Landscape: High mountains. In these high foothills are ravines, buttes, and wooded peaks, watered by streams from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Yosemite National Park is immediately north with waterfalls, acres of forest, and glacier-carved valleys. Rivers drain into the broad San Joaquin Valley to the west. The lower hills are covered by close-growing cypress and piñon. In the higher elevations is a combination of digger pine and blue oak.

Climate: Sierran forest climate in the transition zone between the dry west coast desert and the wet west coast farther north. Prevailing west winds influence conditions jointly with elevation. Therefore the summers are long and generally dry, with most of the precipitation falling as rain rather than snow. First frost comes October 22 while the last frost leaves April 15.

Summer mildness: 57**Seasonal affect:** 75**Winter mildness:** 66**Hazard free:** 56



Ocala, FL

Rank: 53

Location: 29.11 N and 82.08 W at 99 feet, in north-central Florida, 25 miles south of Gainesville and 90 miles west of Daytona Beach and the Atlantic Ocean.

Landscape: Flat plains. This is low ridge country with deposits of pure limestone, just west of Ocala National Forest. Artesian springs and outlets form the Silver River. Stands of sand pine, longleaf, slash, and other yellow southern pine mix with a variety of hardwoods of the Eastern deciduous forest, evergreen oaks, laurel, and a lower stratum of tree ferns, small palms, and shrubs.

Climate: Subtropical, with a small annual range of temperature changes. Precipitation is light, except from May to September. Summers are hotter and more humid than those of coastal locations but are cooled by afternoon thunderstorms. Winters are mild, with warm days and cool nights. First frost comes early December; the last frost leaves mid-February.

Summer mildness: 12

Seasonal affect: 58

Winter mildness: 85

Hazard free: 86

	92
	148
	125
	120
	12
	0
	27
	77
	82

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	70	45	56	8.9	3.2	0
FEB	72	46	52	9.6	3.8	0
MAR	79	53	50	9.9	3.5	0
APR	84	57	46	9.4	2.8	0
MAY	89	63	49	8.8	4.1	0
JUN	92	69	56	8.0	7.2	0
JUL	92	71	59	7.4	7.8	0
AUG	92	71	60	7.1	6.7	0
SEP	90	69	60	7.7	5.5	0
OCT	84	61	56	8.6	2.1	0
NOV	77	53	55	8.6	2.3	0
DEC	72	47	57	8.6	2.7	0

Ocean City, MD

Rank: 132

Location: 38.20 N and 75.05 W at 8 feet, on the Atlantic Coast of southeastern Maryland, 100 miles southeast of Washington, D.C.

Landscape: Flat plains. A 10-mile barrier beach forming a chain of bays along the Atlantic shore. Assateague Island National Seashore is a narrow barrier island and a southern extension of Ocean City's barrier beach. The coastal marshes and interior swamps of the region are dominated by gums and cypress. There is an understory of grasses and sedges. Undrained shallow depressions in these savannas form upland bogs where evergreen shrubs predominate.

Climate: Subtropical, characterized by milder winters than those in locations farther north, thanks to the Atlantic. Summers are somewhat hot and humid. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year as rain, though there may be summer drought. Snow is infrequent though frost occurs nearly every winter, with the first frost on October 19 and the last frost on April 22.

Summer mildness: 60

Seasonal affect: 32

Winter mildness: 33

Hazard free: 48

	97
	104
	164
	26
	93
	0
	34
	70
	28

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	43	26	61	9.8	3.6	4.2
FEB	46	28	59	10.4	3.5	3.5
MAR	55	35	53	11.2	4.2	2.4
APR	65	43	52	10.6	3.2	0
MAY	74	53	55	9.1	3.6	0
JUN	82	62	55	8.5	3.6	0
JUL	86	67	55	7.8	4.3	0
AUG	85	66	58	7.5	5.3	0
SEP	79	58	58	7.8	3.7	0
OCT	68	47	58	8.2	3.4	0
NOV	59	38	58	9.2	3.2	0
DEC	48	30	61	9.4	3.7	1.8

Oxford, MS

Rank: 116

Location: 34.22 N and 89.31 W at 416 feet, in north-central Mississippi, 75 miles southeast of Memphis, Tennessee.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Rolling hill country near the Sardis Reservoir and two other lakes. The surrounding Holly Springs National Forest protects a typical southeastern mixed forest. Before the Holly Springs National Forest was formed, much of the land was abandoned farmland with rapidly eroding soils. These rolling hills are now covered with loblolly and shortleaf pines, and upland hardwoods of oak-hickory woodlands.

Climate: Hot continental to subtropical. Though not in the path of storms coming up from the Gulf or down from Canada, the area is influenced by both. Winter is wet with frequent drizzle and infrequent light snowfall. Usually there are mild days and cold nights. October 27 greets the first frost; April 4 bids adieu to the last frost. Summer is hot and humid. Spring and autumn are pleasant and long lasting.

Summer mildness: 32

Seasonal affect: 61

Winter mildness: 44

Hazard free: 50

	120
	96
	149
	77
	76
	0
	10
	72
	53

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	49	28	63	10.1	4.6	1.7
FEB	54	31	60	10.2	4.8	1.0
MAR	64	40	56	10.8	6.0	0.2
APR	74	49	53	10.3	5.3	0
MAY	81	57	55	8.8	5.9	0
JUN	88	65	56	8.0	4.1	0
JUL	91	68	57	7.5	4.4	0
AUG	91	66	56	7.0	3.1	0
SEP	85	60	56	7.5	3.7	0
OCT	76	46	51	7.7	3.5	0
NOV	65	39	56	9.1	5.8	0
DEC	54	31	61	9.8	6.1	0.4

**Pagosa Springs, CO****Rank: 106**

Location: 37.16 N and 107.00 W at 7,105 feet, on the San Juan River in southwestern Colorado, 230 air miles from Denver.

Landscape: On a high mountain plateau with peaks of the San Juan Mountains a distant vista to the north and east. The geothermal springs, canyons, mesas, and mountains provide dramatic relief. Mostly forested and dominated by Engelmann spruce and fir forest, scattered aspen groves cover the subalpine areas. The upper reaches grade into alpine tundra.

Climate: Semiarid steppe. High altitude brings just two seasons: an 8-month winter and a 4-month summer. Still, there are, on average, 300 sunny days a year. Temperature variations are great both daily and annually. Snowfall in this region is legendary. First frost arrives early, by September 3; last frost is late departing, not leaving until June 25.

Summer mildness: 99**Seasonal affect:** 80**Winter mildness:** 14**Hazard free:** 1

	115
	130
	120
	2
	243
	36
	8
	47
	35

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	37	1	63	5.6	1.7	31.0
FEB	42	7	55	6.7	1.3	19.9
MAR	48	16	41	8.4	1.6	18.0
APR	57	22	32	9.5	1.2	6.0
MAY	67	30	31	9.6	1.1	1.0
JUN	77	37	25	9.7	0.8	0
JUL	82	46	27	9.3	1.9	0
AUG	80	45	30	9.0	2.5	0
SEP	72	36	33	8.9	2.2	0
OCT	63	26	37	7.9	2.1	3.0
NOV	49	16	48	6.7	1.7	11.0
DEC	39	5	60	5.9	1.8	26.5

Pahrump Valley, NV**Rank: 31**

Location: 36.10 N and 115.08 W at 2,028 feet, just west of the Colorado River Valley. Las Vegas is 40 miles east.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. A desert valley with mountains from 2,000 to 10,000 feet on the horizon. These mountains act as effective barriers to moisture-laden storms moving in from the Pacific Ocean. In the environs, thick-branched Joshua trees grow among creosote bushes and jumbled boulders.

Climate: Summers are typical of a desert climate. Humidity is low, with maximum temperatures topping 100°F. Desert temperatures fall and nearby mountains contribute to relatively cool nights. Spring and fall are ideal, rarely interrupted by adverse weather conditions. Winters, too, are mild, with daytime averages of 60°F, clear skies, and warm sunshine. First frost comes December 11; last frost leaves February 17. There are very few over-cast or rainy days.

Summer mildness: 31**Seasonal affect:** 97**Winter mildness:** 50**Hazard free:** 80

	221
	79
	65
	123
	14
	0
	1
	13
	14

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	57	26	35	7.5	0.6	1.0
FEB	62	31	30	8.6	0.6	0.1
MAR	67	36	25	10.3	0.6	0
APR	74	42	20	11.0	0.4	0
MAY	84	51	17	11.1	0.2	0
JUN	95	60	14	11.1	0.1	0
JUL	101	67	15	10.3	0.4	0
AUG	99	65	19	9.6	0.5	0
SEP	91	56	20	9.0	0.3	0
OCT	81	45	22	8.1	0.2	0
NOV	67	33	30	7.7	0.5	0
DEC	57	25	36	7.3	0.4	0.1

Palmer-Wasilla, AK**Rank: 174**

Location: 61.36 N and 149.063 W at 239 feet in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley in south-central Alaska, 42 miles northeast of Anchorage. Seattle, Washington, is 1,450 air miles southeast.

Landscape: Plains with low mountains. Level to gently rolling farmland, surrounded by the Chugach and Talkeetna mountain ranges. Pioneer Peak, Knik Glacier, Matanuska Peak, and Lazy Mountain are prominent features in view. The nearby forests are dense conifer stands of Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, Sitka spruce, and Alaska cedar.

Climate: Four well-marked seasons, though summers are brief. Fifty miles northwest, the Alaska Range blocks much of the cold air from the vast interior. Consequently, winter temperatures are warmer by 30 degrees. The first frost, coming by mid-September, signals the onset of autumn; the last frost, April 1, shouts spring is coming. By mid-April to the beginning of May, the rivers and lakes have thawed.

Summer mildness: 79**Seasonal affect:** 0**Winter mildness:** 31**Hazard free:** 18

	61
	64
	240
	0
	178
	21
	73
	148
	0

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	31	16	73	6.4	6.7	20.4
FEB	35	19	70	6.8	6.8	23.6
MAR	38	22	64	6.9	6.3	27.3
APR	44	29	60	7.2	5.7	16.0
MAY	52	36	56	8.4	6.3	1.5
JUN	58	43	62	8.3	6.0	0
JUL	62	47	68	7.3	5.6	0
AUG	62	46	71	6.9	9.2	0
SEP	56	40	71	6.7	13.8	0
OCT	46	33	72	6.7	13.0	3.7
NOV	37	23	75	6.5	7.7	10.8
DEC	32	18	77	6.2	9.1	26.8

★ **Palm Springs–Coachella Valley, CA****Rank: 6**

Location: 33.49 N and 116.32 W at 466 feet, in California's desert country, 100 miles east of Los Angeles.

Landscape: High mountains. In the Coachella Valley at the foot of Mt. San Jacinto, where the San Geronio Pass funnels warmed air from the Pacific that sometimes includes Los Angeles smog. This is the edge of the Sonoran Desert, known sometimes as the Upper Colorado Desert. Joshua Tree National Monument is immediately northeast. Desert cactus, palm, and broadleaf evergreen scrub pine are typical.

Climate: Arid desert surrounding rapid urbanization. Summers are dry and hot with afternoon temperatures topping 100°F. Nights are cooler, as is typical of deserts. Most of the annual precipitation, such as it is, falls in winter as brief rain. The first frost is late arriving in mid-December; the last frost is out by late January.

Summer mildness: 22**Seasonal affect:** 99**Winter mildness:** 96**Hazard free:** 94

	242
	75
	48
	180
	7
	0
	2
	9
	7

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	70	43	40	7.3	1.0	0.1
FEB	76	46	35	7.4	0.8	0
MAR	80	49	30	7.9	0.5	0
APR	87	54	25	8.3	0.1	0
MAY	95	61	23	8.3	0.1	0
JUN	104	68	22	8.5	0.1	0
JUL	109	75	32	9.5	0.2	0
AUG	107	75	35	8.9	0.4	0
SEP	101	69	35	7.3	0.4	0
OCT	92	60	32	6.6	0.2	0
NOV	79	49	34	6.9	0.7	0
DEC	70	42	41	7.2	0.8	0

★ **Panama City, FL****Rank: 67**

Location: 30.09 N and 85.39 W at 33 feet, on the Gulf of Mexico in Florida's northwestern panhandle. Tallahassee is 120 miles east.

Landscape: Flat plains. Sandy coastal region of shallow bays, white beaches, and dunes. Elevations range from a few feet above sea level to more than 100 feet, providing relief from usual flat topography. The interior swamp includes evergreen oaks and members of the laurel and magnolia families. The longleaf, loblolly, and slash pines represent second-growth forest.

Climate: Subtropical. The Florida panhandle is cooler in summer than the central part of the state and still pleasant in winter. The Yucatan Current runs near here, bringing its moderating influence. This is basically a two-season climate with little temperature swing.

Summer mildness: 14**Seasonal affect:** 65**Winter mildness:** 78**Hazard free:** 73

	108
	122
	135
	75
	39
	0
	35
	66
	69

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	37	62	9.0	5.0	0.1
FEB	64	39	59	9.4	5.8	0.1
MAR	70	46	59	9.7	5.8	0
APR	78	53	56	9.5	3.7	0
MAY	85	61	58	8.6	4.0	0
JUN	90	68	60	7.6	6.1	0
JUL	91	71	64	7.0	8.5	0
AUG	91	71	65	6.7	7.2	0
SEP	88	66	61	7.6	5.8	0
OCT	80	54	55	7.9	4.3	0
NOV	71	46	60	8.4	4.1	0
DEC	64	40	64	9.0	4.8	0

★ **Paradise–Magalia, CA****Rank: 14**

Location: 39.44 N and 121.38 W at 1,708 feet, on Paradise Ridge in the Sierra Nevada foothills, 92 miles north of Sacramento.

Landscape: Low mountains. Known locally as "the Ridge" where steep slopes climb to high mountains. Stream-cut canyons drain to the Sacramento River. Tall digger pine, ponderosa and sugar pine, and blue oak dominate the mixed conifer forest. Lower rounded hills are grass and chaparral scrub covered. Open meadows and woodlands alternate.

Climate: Distinctly four seasons. The altitude moderates temperature. Winter is the rainy season, and summer is long and dry. First frost is in mid-October; last frost is in mid-May.

Summer mildness: 60**Seasonal affect:** 76**Winter mildness:** 62**Hazard free:** 92

	178
	78
	110
	39
	117
	0
	13
	59
	5

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	54	37	80	7.3	10.0	0.2
FEB	57	40	75	7.4	7.6	0
MAR	59	41	65	7.9	7.9	0
APR	66	45	55	8.3	3.8	0
MAY	75	51	48	8.3	1.2	0
JUN	84	58	44	8.5	0.5	0
JUL	91	64	44	9.5	0.1	0
AUG	90	63	45	8.9	0.3	0
SEP	84	59	45	7.3	1.1	0
OCT	74	52	53	6.6	3.2	0
NOV	60	43	65	6.9	8.5	0
DEC	53	37	77	7.2	8.5	0.2

**Park City, UT****Rank: 141**

Location: 40.3846 N and 111.295 W at 6,970 feet, 30 miles east of Salt Lake City.

Landscape: High mountains. This alpine area is located in a high valley of the Wasatch Range with many limestone terraces, lakes, and high mountain streams. Near the junction with the Uinta Mountains where the Wasatch National Forest is mixed conifer, with spruce, fir, and aspen. The many mine tailings are covered and planted with salt grass for erosion control. Open rangeland is nearby. Cottonwood predominates in the valley streams. Alpine wildflowers are abundant in spring and summer.

Climate: This is a four-season area. Summers are warm and dry, winters long and cold. Autumn is short but pleasant, while spring is longer but often stormy. First frost hits early, by September 10; last frost leaves late, June 8. Almost all precipitation falls in the form of snow, some 70 inches in a typical year.

Summer mildness: 88**Seasonal affect:** 66**Winter mildness:** 8**Hazard free:** 5

	125
	101
	139
	20
	210
	21
	42
	43
	38

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	34	8	75	7.5	1.8	19.3
FEB	40	13	69	8.1	1.6	13.1
MAR	48	22	59	9.3	1.4	7.9
APR	60	29	53	9.6	1.4	3.2
MAY	70	36	49	9.5	1.2	1.0
JUN	79	42	43	9.4	0.9	0
JUL	87	48	37	9.5	0.9	0
AUG	86	47	39	9.7	1.0	0
SEP	77	39	45	9.1	1.3	0.1
OCT	65	30	55	8.5	1.5	1.9
NOV	48	22	67	7.9	1.7	8.1
DEC	36	12	75	7.5	1.6	13.6

Payson, AZ**Rank: 40**

Location: 34.14 N and 111.19 W at 4,887 feet, in the Tonto Basin near Arizona's Mogollon Rim. Phoenix is 65 miles southeast.

Landscape: Open high mountains. Surrounded by the Tonto National Forest. The Mazatzal Mountains of central Arizona and higher peaks of the White Mountains are nearby, though this is gentle rolling hill country. In the higher ridges the cover is ponderosa, juniper, and piñon pine. Lower, sagebrush and native grasses grow in the dry alkaline soil.

Climate: Semiarid mountain steppe. There are strong daily and seasonal temperature changes. The usual winter flow of air is from the Pacific Ocean, bringing snow. Cold air masses from Canada sometimes drive temperatures well below freezing in the high plateau and mountainous regions. First frost arrives by October 21; last frost leaves May 14. Moisture-bearing winds from the southeast Gulf region bring rain from July to September.

Summer mildness: 67**Seasonal affect:** 91**Winter mildness:** 55**Hazard free:** 40

	212
	84
	69
	64
	144
	0
	2
	40
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	54	24	45	5.3	2.0	5.3
FEB	58	26	40	5.9	1.9	4.1
MAR	62	29	36	6.7	2.4	5.6
APR	70	34	25	7.0	1.1	1.0
MAY	79	41	20	7.1	0.6	0
JUN	90	49	18	6.8	0.4	0
JUL	93	58	28	7.2	2.6	0
AUG	90	57	33	6.7	3.2	0
SEP	84	50	34	6.3	2.1	0
OCT	74	40	34	5.8	1.7	0
NOV	62	30	37	5.4	1.9	2.0
DEC	54	24	46	5.1	2.3	6.4

Pendleton District, SC**Rank: 88**

Location: 34.41 N and 82.57 W at 950 feet in the extreme northwestern part of the state, 25 miles southwest of Greenville.

Landscape: Low mountains. The high parts of the Blue Ridge foothills yield a broken outline. Here's a curving valley with typical Up Country broadleaf forests of beech, sweet gum, magnolia, and oak forests with scattered pine. Rhododendrons, azaleas, and kalmias are the understory bloom in spring.

Climate: Transition between hot continental and subtropical. Winters are brief, with negligible snowfalls. First frost arrives fairly late on November 1; last frost leaves a little early by April 3. Summers are longer than those in more northerly locations and less humid and stormy than those in the Lowcountry, 150 miles southeast. Precipitation is distributed throughout the year, with the most falling as early spring rain.

Summer mildness: 46**Seasonal affect:** 35**Winter mildness:** 70**Hazard free:** 59

	122
	100
	143
	49
	70
	0
	34
	81
	43

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	51	28	56	7.4	5.2	1.2
FEB	55	31	53	8.0	4.9	1.5
MAR	63	38	52	8.1	6.0	1.1
APR	72	47	49	7.9	4.2	0
MAY	79	55	55	6.9	4.3	0
JUN	86	63	56	6.4	4.2	0
JUL	89	67	58	5.9	4.6	0
AUG	88	67	61	5.7	4.4	0
SEP	82	60	61	6.1	3.7	0
OCT	73	48	53	6.5	4.1	0
NOV	64	39	55	6.8	4.1	0
DEC	54	31	58	7.3	4.8	0.6



Pensacola, FL

Rank: 118

Location: 30.25 N and 87.13 W at 39 feet, in the Florida Panhandle on Pensacola Bay, 195 miles west of Tallahassee. Mobile, Alabama, is 50 miles west.

Landscape: Irregular plains. On a somewhat hilly, sandy slope separated from the Gulf of Mexico by a long, narrow island forming a natural breakwater for the harbor. Salt marshes and white-sand beaches are common. The forested area is southern mixed with various deciduous hardwoods, conifers of loblollies, and shortleaf pine. Elevations don't reach much more than 100 feet above sea level, but most of the city is safely above storm tides.

Climate: Warm, humid summers and cool winters are the expected norm. Rainfall is likely throughout the year, becoming heavy with summer thunderstorms. Sea breezes off the Gulf of Mexico temper the humidity in summer. More than a trace amount of snow per winter is rare.

Summer mildness: 4

Seasonal affect: 28

Winter mildness: 81

Hazard free: 72

	106
	123
	136
	84
	30
	0
	178
	82
	68

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	41	66	9.0	4.7	0.3
FEB	63	44	63	9.4	5.4	0
MAR	69	51	64	9.7	5.6	0
APR	77	59	63	9.5	3.8	0
MAY	83	66	69	8.6	4.2	0
JUN	89	72	70	7.6	6.4	0
JUL	90	74	72	7.0	7.4	0
AUG	89	74	75	6.7	7.4	0
SEP	86	70	74	7.6	5.3	0
OCT	79	59	69	7.9	4.2	0
NOV	70	51	68	8.4	3.5	0
DEC	63	44	67	8.9	4.3	0

Petoskey-Harbor Springs, MI

Rank: 191

Location: 45.22 N and 84.57 W at 786 feet, on the south shore of Little Traverse Bay on Lake Michigan, some 30 miles south of the Mackinac Straits separating Michigan's upper and lower peninsulas.

Landscape: Plains with hills. Generally level or gently undulating, with sandy and gravelly soils. The region abounds with lakes. Local beaches and gravel pits yield colorful fossilized stones. Elevations in the area provide access to both downhill and cross-country skiing. The forest is pine and hemlock.

Climate: Though rigorous because of its interior and northerly location, the climate is modified by the presence of two Great Lakes. As a consequence, summer temperatures average at least 5 degrees cooler than locations in the southern part of the state. However, winters are severe, with cold spells that may last for a week and snowfall that averages almost 75 inches. First frost arrives early, by September 22; the last frost won't leave until May 31.

Summer mildness: 74

Seasonal affect: 17

Winter mildness: 4

Hazard free: 3

	67
	89
	210
	5
	169
	18
	23
	73
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	28	12	77	12.6	2.0	23.1
FEB	31	9	72	11.6	1.2	15.4
MAR	41	19	66	11.9	1.5	10.4
APR	55	31	60	11.8	2.4	2.0
MAY	69	40	58	10.1	2.6	0
JUN	77	49	61	9.5	2.8	0
JUL	81	55	63	8.7	2.8	0
AUG	79	53	64	8.5	3.2	0
SEP	71	47	66	9.4	4.3	0
OCT	60	38	68	10.8	3.4	0
NOV	45	30	72	11.9	3.0	12.0
DEC	33	19	78	12.1	2.4	25.5

Pike County, PA

Rank: 159

Location: 41.19 N and 74.48 W at 1,185 feet, across the Delaware River from New York State. New York City is 80 miles southeast.

Landscape: Low mountains. The Delaware River drains this highland region between the Catskills and the Pocono Mountains. These are long flat-topped or rounded ridges rising to 4,000 feet. Many streams and glacial lakes lie among the wooded hills. White pine, eastern hemlock, and red spruce mix with deciduous trees like red maple, sassafras, oak, beech, and birch. Mountain laurel, dogwood, dwarf sumac, and fern fill out the lower growth layers.

Climate: Hot continental, with summers moderated by altitude. Winter is cold and cloudy. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year, with snow likely to fall in December and last until spring. The first frost will arrive by October 7; the last frost will leave May 9. Severe weather disturbances are unlikely.

Summer mildness: 73

Seasonal affect: 20

Winter mildness: 36

Hazard free: 24

	69
	113
	183
	16
	145
	6
	19
	76
	32

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	34	16	58	8.3	3.1	11.3
FEB	38	18	57	9.0	3.0	10.7
MAR	49	26	53	9.5	3.5	10.4
APR	62	36	49	9.2	3.7	1.0
MAY	73	46	49	7.6	4.5	0
JUN	80	55	55	6.8	3.7	0
JUL	85	60	55	6.2	4.2	0
AUG	82	59	57	5.8	3.6	0
SEP	73	52	59	6.1	3.7	0
OCT	62	40	59	6.6	3.0	0
NOV	51	32	60	7.8	3.9	2.0
DEC	38	22	62	8.0	3.4	9.7



★ Placer County, CA

Rank: 17

Location: The weather station is Auburn, the county seat, sitting at 39.00 N and 121.00 W at 1,290 feet in California's Sierra Nevadas. Sacramento is 30 miles southwest.

Landscape: High mountains. On steep hill and mountain slopes too dry to support oak woodland or oak forest, much of the vegetation is scrub or "dwarf forest" known as chaparral, which varies in composition with elevation and exposure. It consists of chamise and various manzanitas that are adapted to periodic occurrences of fire.

Climate: Mediterranean highland. Hot, dry summers and rainy, mild winters characterize this climate. Annual precipitation ranges from 10 to 50 inches, with a pronounced summer drought. This coastal area has a more moderate climate than the interior and receives some moisture from fog in summer. Fire is common, usually set by lightning during the summer dry season. The first frost arrives October 17 and the last frost departs May 23.

Summer mildness: 17

Seasonal affect: 69

Winter mildness: 89

Hazard free: 98

	189
	76
	101
	93
	17
	0
	95
	37
	2

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	54	54	83	7.2	4.1	0
FEB	62	62	76	7.5	3.2	0
MAR	67	67	71	8.6	3.0	0
APR	74	74	65	8.7	1.5	0
MAY	83	83	60	9.2	0.4	0
JUN	90	90	55	9.7	0.2	0
JUL	96	96	54	9.0	0.1	0
AUG	94	94	56	8.6	0.1	0
SEP	89	89	57	7.5	0.4	0
OCT	79	79	62	6.4	1.4	0
NOV	64	64	74	6.0	3.3	0
DEC	54	54	83	6.7	3.4	0

★ Port Angeles-Sequim, WA

Rank: 28

Location: 48.07 N and 123.25 W at 32 feet, on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Victoria, British Columbia, is 20 miles by ferry across the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Landscape: High mountains. A variety of terrain, from the rocky coastline to peaks rising nearly 8,000 feet in the Olympic Mountains immediately to the south. Rivers and lakes drain the forested peninsula. Pacific needleleaf forests grow densely and have some of the world's largest trees. Douglas fir, western red cedar, and Sitka spruce are dominant. There is shrub undergrowth present in the forests.

Climate: Generally mild throughout the year because of the modifying influence of the Pacific Ocean. Annual rainfall is moderate-heavy, with maximum precipitation in winter due to the maritime polar air masses. There are traces of snow. A late first frost arrives November 10; the last frost leaves early, April 7. Summer tends to be foggy.

Summer mildness: 89

Seasonal affect: 15

Winter mildness: 79

Hazard free: 79

	52
	84
	229
	0
	41
	0
	90
	64
	5

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	34	86	7.1	4.0	2.7
FEB	48	35	83	7.2	2.6	0.8
MAR	51	37	77	7.4	2.0	1.1
APR	55	39	68	7.4	1.3	0
MAY	60	44	64	6.9	1.0	0
JUN	65	48	64	6.7	0.8	0
JUL	69	51	63	6.2	0.5	0
AUG	69	51	64	6.0	0.8	0
SEP	66	48	70	5.7	1.2	0
OCT	58	43	78	5.9	2.3	0
NOV	50	38	82	6.9	4.0	0
DEC	46	34	87	7.3	4.4	1.5

★ Port Charlotte, FL

Rank: 43

Location: 26.58 N and 82.05 W at 11 feet, at the northern end of Charlotte Harbor on the Gulf of Mexico, 44 miles south of Sarasota.

Landscape: Flat plains crossed by rivers and streams. The woods are temperate broadleaf evergreen of laurel, and magnolia. The lower level of growth includes tree ferns, small palms, and shrubs.

Climate: Subtropical. Summer and winter temperature extremes are checked by the influence of the Gulf. Mild winters have many bright, warm days. Nights are moderately cool. Rainfall averages more than 50 inches annually, with two-thirds of this total coming daily between June and September. Most rain falls as late-afternoon or early-evening thunderstorms, bringing welcome relief from the heat. With a first frost coming late, December 11, and the last frost leaving early, February 16, there is a long growing season.

Summer mildness: 5

Seasonal affect: 69

Winter mildness: 92

Hazard free: 83

	102
	142
	121
	120
	1
	0
	21
	71
	93

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	74	51	56	8.6	2.0	0
FEB	76	52	56	9.2	2.5	0
MAR	80	57	53	9.5	2.6	0
APR	85	60	47	9.3	1.3	0
MAY	89	66	49	8.7	3.6	0
JUN	91	71	56	8.0	8.1	0
JUL	92	73	60	7.2	7.3	0
AUG	92	73	60	7.0	7.9	0
SEP	90	72	61	7.8	6.5	0
OCT	86	66	57	8.5	2.8	0
NOV	80	59	57	8.4	1.8	0
DEC	76	53	56	8.5	1.8	0



Port St. Lucie, FL

Rank: 62

Location: 27.26 N and 80.19 W at 16 feet off Florida Atlantic Coast, some 120 miles north of Miami.

Landscape: Flat plains, with local relief less than 300 feet, although some areas are gently rolling. Common trees include evergreen oaks and members of the laurel and magnolia families. Sandy uplands have forests of loblolly and slash pine. Bald Cypress is a dominant tree in swamps. Sometimes the trees are festooned with Spanish moss.

Climate: Subtropical, with high year-round relative humidity near 90 percent at night and dipping to 50 percent in the afternoon. The rainy season extends from June to September; afternoon thundershowers occur daily. Rain is light during the winter, and snow and sleet are rare. Winter temperatures may drop to freezing at night, but days are clear and dry, with brilliant sunshine. The first frost arrives December 12 and the last frost departs January 22.

Summer mildness: 4

Winter mildness: 92

Seasonal affect: 50

Hazard free: 90

	98
	133
	135
	55
	1
	0
	39
	76
	67

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	73	52	74	8.6	2.1	0
FEB	74	53	72	9.1	2.8	0
MAR	78	58	71	9.7	3.1	0
APR	82	62	68	9.4	1.9	0
MAY	86	67	70	9.2	4.8	0
JUN	89	71	75	7.9	5.7	0
JUL	90	73	76	7.0	5.8	0
AUG	90	73	78	6.5	5.6	0
SEP	89	72	77	7.5	7.5	0
OCT	85	68	75	8.7	5.7	0
NOV	79	60	75	9.2	2.9	0
DEC	75	54	73	8.0	2.3	0

★ Port Townsend, WA

Rank: 29

Location: 48.07 N and 122.45 W at 16 feet, on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, at the eastern end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, where Admiralty Inlet leads into Puget Sound. Seattle is 45 air miles south.

Landscape: High mountains. In the midst of a variety of terrain, from the rocky, glaciated coastline to peaks rising nearly 8,000 feet in the Olympic Mountains to the west. Rivers and lakes drain the forested peninsula. Nearby Pacific needleleaf forests are thick and contain some of the world's largest trees. Douglas fir, western red cedar, and Sitka spruce are dominant. Shrub undergrowth is present in the forests.

Climate: Predominantly marine, with cool summers, mild winters, moist air, and small daily temperature variation. Summers are cool and dry. Like most other places in this region, the area is often foggy and cloudy. First frost comes by November 10; the last frost is gone by April 7.

Summer mildness: 89

Winter mildness: 79

Seasonal affect: 14

Hazard free: 79

	53
	83
	230
	0
	41
	0
	90
	64
	5

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	34	86	7.1	4.0	2.7
FEB	48	35	83	7.2	2.6	0.8
MAR	51	37	77	7.4	2.0	1.1
APR	55	39	68	7.4	1.3	0
MAY	60	44	64	6.9	1.0	0
JUN	65	48	64	6.7	0.8	0
JUL	69	51	63	6.2	0.5	0
AUG	69	51	64	6.0	0.8	0
SEP	66	48	70	5.7	1.2	0
OCT	58	43	78	5.9	2.3	0
NOV	50	38	82	6.9	4.0	0
DEC	46	34	87	7.3	4.4	1.5

★ Prescott–Prescott Valley, AZ

Rank: 25

Location: 34.32 N and 112.28 W at 5,368 feet, in Arizona's mountainous west-central section. Phoenix is 96 miles southeast; Flagstaff 90 miles northeast.

Landscape: Open high mountains. Found in a mile-high basin among pine-dotted mountains rich in minerals. The higher ridges of the Prescott National Forest hold the world's largest stand of ponderosa. Sagebrush and native grasses dominate the dry alkaline soil at lower elevations.

Climate: Semi-arid mountain steppe, with strong daily and seasonal temperature changes. Prescott is Arizona's mile-high city, and its high elevation and mountain breezes keep temperatures from reaching the grueling levels of low-lying Phoenix. The usual winter flow of air is from the Pacific Ocean, bringing frequent snow. Cold air masses from Canada sometimes drive temperatures below freezing in the high plateau and mountainous regions. First frost is in by October 9; last frost leaves by May 17. Moisture-bearing winds from the southeast Gulf region bring rain from July to September.

Summer mildness: 78

Winter mildness: 51

Seasonal affect: 89

Hazard free: 45

	212
	84
	69
	32
	150
	0
	11
	39
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	50	22	45	5.3	1.5	4.5
FEB	54	24	40	5.9	1.5	3.5
MAR	57	28	36	6.7	1.8	6.8
APR	65	34	25	7.0	0.8	2.0
MAY	74	41	20	7.1	0.6	0
JUN	85	50	18	6.8	0.5	0
JUL	88	58	28	7.2	3.2	0
AUG	85	56	33	6.7	3.4	0
SEP	80	49	34	6.3	2.0	0
OCT	71	38	34	5.8	1.1	0
NOV	60	29	37	5.4	1.5	1.0
DEC	51	22	46	5.1	1.6	5.1

**Rabun County, GA****Rank: 114**

Location: The weather station is at Clayton, 34.52 N and 83.24 W at 1,925 feet in Georgia's northeast mountains. Atlanta is 90 miles southwest.

Landscape: Low mountains. In the southern Appalachians, terrain is hilly to mountainous, with elevations averaging 1,500 feet. To the north, some mountains rise above 3,000 feet. Chattahoochee National Forest is a mixed deciduous forest, with oak, beech, birch, walnut, maple, ash, and hornbeam. Pines readily develop as second growth where there has been logging or fire.

Climate: Nearby mountains have marked influences on summer heat, producing warm days and cool nights. Winters are cold but not severe. The contrast of valley and hill exposures results in wide variations in winter low temperatures. First frost makes its appearance by October 21; last frost departs by April 24. Generally, places halfway up the mountain slopes remain warmer during winter nights than do places on the valley floor. Spring is changeable and sometimes stormy. Fall is clear and sunny, with chilly nights.

Summer mildness: 55**Seasonal affect:** 18**Winter mildness:** 61**Hazard free:** 54

	103
	113
	149
	14
	93
	0
	78
	95
	45

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	51	27	65	9.7	6.4	1.6
FEB	55	29	61	9.6	6.1	1.9
MAR	63	35	56	9.4	7.4	1.7
APR	71	42	53	8.9	5.4	0
MAY	77	50	60	7.1	6.8	0
JUN	83	57	61	6.1	5.4	0
JUL	85	62	63	5.8	5.8	0
AUG	84	61	63	5.4	6.1	0
SEP	79	55	62	5.6	5.7	0
OCT	72	43	57	6.8	5.1	0
NOV	63	36	60	8.1	5.9	0
DEC	54	29	66	8.9	6.7	0.8

Rehoboth Bay–Indian River Bay, DE**Rank: 139**

Location: 38.43 N and 75.04 W at 16 feet, on Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Coast, 100 miles east of Washington, D.C.

Landscape: Flat plains. Very nearly a flat topography. A long barrier beach separates the Bays from the Atlantic Ocean. Coastal sand dunes and beaches are a sharp contrast, with stands of pine. Streams flow from inland lakes to coastal marshlands before emptying into the bays.

Climate: Experiences the northern edge of the subtropical zone. Seasonal and daily temperature variations are moderate. Winters can be cold, with snow that's scant and usually doesn't last long. First frost is October 27; last frost is April 13. Summers can be hot and humid but are tempered by onshore breezes.

Summer mildness: 66**Seasonal affect:** 28**Winter mildness:** 34**Hazard free:** 41

	97
	104
	164
	18
	91
	0
	34
	71
	30

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	43	26	62	9.8	3.8	5.1
FEB	45	28	59	10.4	3.3	5.2
MAR	54	35	55	11.2	4.1	2.7
APR	64	43	52	10.6	3.6	0
MAY	73	53	51	9.1	3.8	0
JUN	81	62	51	8.5	3.4	0
JUL	85	67	53	7.8	4.0	0
AUG	84	66	54	7.5	5.2	0
SEP	78	60	54	7.8	3.1	0
OCT	68	49	54	8.2	3.2	0
NOV	59	40	54	9.2	3.3	0
DEC	48	31	57	9.4	3.7	1.9

Rio Rancho, NM**Rank: 90**

Location: 35.14 N and 106.39 W at 5,290 feet, 10 miles northwest of Albuquerque. Santa Fe is 60 miles northeast.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. Perched on a mesa overlooking the upper Rio Grande River and bounded by parts of the Cibola National Forest. The Sandia and Manzano mountains are to the east. The land is a typical steppe or shortgrass prairie, with scattered shrubs and low trees. Common vegetation includes sagebrush or shadscale and a mixture of shortgrasses. There may be willows and sedges along streams.

Climate: Arid continental. The dry air lessens the effect of the heat, which frequently tops 100°F in summer. Summer nights are cool. Winters are cool also, with light snow in higher elevations. First frost is in by October 11; last frost is out by May 5. In mid- to late summer there are frequent and intense thunderstorms, accounting for half the area's annual precipitation.

Summer mildness: 54**Seasonal affect:** 91**Winter mildness:** 24**Hazard free:** 39

	169
	111
	85
	75
	151
	1
	6
	24
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	47	22	50	8.1	0.4	2.5
FEB	54	26	42	8.9	0.5	2.2
MAR	61	32	32	10.1	0.5	1.8
APR	71	40	25	11.0	0.5	0.6
MAY	80	49	23	10.6	0.5	0
JUN	90	58	22	10.0	0.6	0
JUL	93	64	30	9.1	1.4	0
AUG	89	63	34	8.3	1.6	0
SEP	82	55	35	8.6	1.0	0
OCT	71	43	35	8.3	0.9	0.1
NOV	57	31	38	7.9	0.4	1.3
DEC	48	23	46	7.7	0.5	2.6

**Rockport–Aransas Pass, TX****Rank: 76**

Location: 28.01 N and 97.03 W at 6 feet, on the Gulf of Mexico, 30 miles northeast of Corpus Christi.

Landscape: Flat plains. Aransas County is a flat coastal plain, with many bays and inlets. Elevations range from sea level to a mere 50 feet. The sandy loam and coastal clay soils are dotted with mesquite and live oak.

Climate: Humid subtropical. The heat is moderated by the prevailing southeasterly winds off the Gulf, producing a climate that's predominantly maritime. Summers are warm and humid. Winters are pleasantly mild, with freezing temperatures occurring only at night, and only about 10 times per year. First frost is late arriving on December 9; last frost departs early, by February 16. Spring and fall are the most pleasant, with moderate temperatures and changeable weather.

Summer mildness: 6**Seasonal affect:** 71**Winter mildness:** 63**Hazard free:** 82

	103
	121
	140
	135
	9
	0
	29
	38
	29

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	68	45	68	12.1	1.5	0.1
FEB	72	48	65	13.0	1.8	0
MAR	79	55	61	14.1	0.9	0
APR	85	63	62	14.3	1.6	0
MAY	89	68	66	12.8	3.4	0
JUN	92	72	63	11.8	4.0	0
JUL	95	74	57	11.5	2.2	0
AUG	96	73	58	11.0	2.9	0
SEP	92	70	62	10.4	4.3	0
OCT	86	62	59	10.3	2.7	0
NOV	78	55	62	11.6	1.4	0
DEC	71	47	64	11.5	1.0	0

Roswell, NM**Rank: 101**

Location: 33.2342 N and 104.3136 W at 3,557 feet, roughly 175 miles midway between El Paso, Texas, and Lubbock, Texas. Albuquerque is 180 miles northwest.

Landscape: Open high hills. The area is situated in the high desert plains of the Pecos Valley, with mountains to the west and south. The dry land forms into cliffs, terraces, buttes, mesas, and canyons. Carlsbad Caverns National Park lies to the south and Lincoln National Forest to the west. Mesquite, creosote, yucca, and cacti mix with desert willows, Rio Grande cottonwood, and native grasses.

Climate: Typical desert, with long, hot, and dry summers. Winters range from daytime warm to cold nights. The first frost arrives in late October; the last frost leaves by April 13. Most precipitation falls in the form of summer thunderstorms, with trace snowfall in winter.

Summer mildness: 32**Seasonal affect:** 81**Winter mildness:** 44**Hazard free:** 42

	157
	104
	104
	105
	107
	1
	57
	21
	47

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	54	25	57	7.7	0.4	2.4
FEB	60	29	50	8.5	0.5	2.9
MAR	68	36	40	10.1	0.3	1.5
APR	77	45	37	10.1	0.5	0.2
MAY	85	55	42	9.8	1.0	0
JUN	94	62	45	9.5	1.6	0
JUL	95	67	51	8.7	1.7	0
AUG	92	65	55	7.8	2.6	0
SEP	86	59	57	8.0	2.0	0
OCT	77	47	53	7.8	1.1	0.2
NOV	66	35	53	7.8	0.5	1.2
DEC	56	26	55	7.5	0.5	1.9

Ruidoso, NM**Rank: 44**

Location: 33.20 N and 105.41 W at 6,641 feet, in south-central New Mexico. El Paso, Texas, is 155 miles south.

Landscape: Low mountains. On the eastern slope of the Sacramento Mountains with the Tularosa Valley to the west. Thorny desert shrubs of mesquite and creosote bush thrive in lower elevations; juniper and piñon are found in higher elevations to the east.

Climate: Highland, with cold winters, and short hot summers. Daily and seasonal temperature changes are pronounced. Because of the mountain location, the first frost arrives early, by September 19, and the last frost does not leave until June 11. There are traces of snow, but most precipitation falls as light rain and is evenly distributed throughout the year. The higher elevations of the Lincoln National Forest, which includes the ski area, usually remain snow-covered all winter.

Summer mildness: 99**Seasonal affect:** 86**Winter mildness:** 15**Hazard free:** 49

	193
	100
	72
	5
	200
	4
	6
	49
	36

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	42	20	42	8.4	1.6	2.7
FEB	43	21	34	9.2	1.4	1.7
MAR	49	25	27	11.0	1.5	1.1
APR	57	32	21	11.1	0.5	0
MAY	65	38	21	10.3	1.0	0
JUN	73	46	23	9.3	2.0	0
JUL	72	49	35	8.3	4.4	0
AUG	70	47	39	7.8	5.0	0
SEP	66	43	41	7.6	3.3	0
OCT	59	35	36	7.5	1.8	0
NOV	49	26	37	8.0	1.3	1.0
DEC	43	22	42	7.9	2.0	2.6

**St. Augustine, FL****Rank: 36**

Location: 29.51 N and 81.16 W at 5 feet, on the Atlantic Coast in northeastern Florida, 40 miles south of Jacksonville.

Landscape: Flat plains. Located on a peninsula with the Matanzas and North rivers on the east and south and the San Sebastian on the west. These rivers and saltwater lagoons lie between the city and Anastasia Island and the Atlantic Ocean beyond, serving as a port of entry on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. There are Coquina quarries. The surrounding terrain is level. The pines begin to yield to palms. Broadleaf deciduous trees are a rarity in the coastal pine forest.

Climate: Subtropical. The atmosphere is heavily humid. Average daily sunshine ranges from 5½ hours in December to 9 hours in May. The greatest amount of rain, mostly in the form of daily afternoon thundershowers, falls during late summer. There is a short frost season with first frost delayed until mid-December; last frost exits mid-February.

Summer mildness: 22**Seasonal affect:** 52**Winter mildness:** 90**Hazard free:** 91

	97
	127
	141
	90° 104
	32° 8
	0° 0
	38
	73
	66

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	66	46	57	8.2	3.1	0
FEB	68	47	53	9.0	3.8	0
MAR	74	53	50	9.0	3.6	0
APR	79	58	48	8.6	2.4	0
MAY	84	64	50	8.0	3.6	0
JUN	88	70	57	7.8	5.5	0
JUL	90	72	58	7.1	5.5	0
AUG	89	72	60	6.8	6.3	0
SEP	86	71	62	7.6	6.1	0
OCT	81	64	58	8.1	3.7	0
NOV	74	55	56	7.7	2.3	0
DEC	69	48	58	7.8	3.0	0

St. George–Zion, UT**Rank: 65**

Location: 37.06 N and 113.34 W at 2,880 feet, in extreme southwestern Utah. Las Vegas, Nevada, is 130 miles southwest.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. Fifteen miles north, the Pine Valley Mountains rise to over 10,000 feet. The same distance west are the Beaver Dam Mountains, rising to 7,000 feet. Canyon walls of red, gray, yellow, and brown sandstone and volcanic cinder-cone rock formations provide relief. As it's on the northern edge of the Mohave Desert, vegetation is sparse. Cacti, thorny shrubs, creosote bush, and chamisa are most prevalent.

Climate: Semiarid desert steppe. The most striking features are bright sunshine, small annual precipitation, dryness and purity of air, and large daily variations in temperature. Summers are characterized by hot, dry weather and low humidity. Winters are short and mild, with the Rocky Mountains blocking cold air masses from the north and east. First frost comes in November 4; last frost leaves on March 31.

Summer mildness: 29**Seasonal affect:** 95**Winter mildness:** 36**Hazard free:** 74

	221
	79
	65
	90° 125
	32° 89
	0° 0
	1
	20
	14

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	54	27	35	7.5	1.1	1.6
FEB	61	32	30	8.6	0.9	0.7
MAR	68	38	25	10.3	1.1	0
APR	77	44	20	11.0	0.5	0
MAY	86	53	17	11.1	0.4	0
JUN	97	62	14	11.1	0.2	0
JUL	102	69	15	10.3	0.6	0
AUG	100	67	19	9.6	0.8	0
SEP	93	58	20	9.0	0.5	0
OCT	81	46	22	8.1	0.5	0
NOV	65	35	30	7.7	0.9	0
DEC	54	28	36	7.3	0.7	0.7

St. Jay–Northeast Kingdom, VT**Rank: 182**

Location: 44.25 N and 72.01 W at 588 feet, in Vermont's Upper Connecticut River Valley, 33 miles east of Montpelier and 75 miles east of Burlington.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The Green Mountains form the western boundary, the Connecticut River the eastern. This area is composed of low rugged hills, lowlands dotted with glacial lakes, ponds, bogs, and swamps. The Passumpsic, Moose, and Sleeper river valleys create interesting relief. The woods are a transitional forest of mixed conifer and deciduous trees. Northern white pine, eastern hemlock, maple, oak, and beech are common.

Climate: Northerly latitude ensures the variety and vigor of a true New England climate. Summers, though not long, are pleasant. Falls are cool, extending through October. Winters are cold and snowy, with brief, intense cold snaps formed by high-pressure systems moving down from central Canada and Hudson Bay. The first frost arrives September 25; the last frost departs May 22.

Summer mildness: 80**Seasonal affect:** 18**Winter mildness:** 11**Hazard free:** 10

	91
	110
	164
	90° 9
	32° 173
	0° 28
	15
	81
	20

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	27	6	58	9.0	2.3	21.3
FEB	31	7	57	9.4	2.1	19.5
MAR	42	19	53	9.9	2.5	14.3
APR	55	31	49	10	2.7	3.0
MAY	70	42	49	8.9	3.3	0
JUN	78	52	55	8.1	3.8	0
JUL	82	56	55	7.5	3.7	0
AUG	80	55	57	7.2	4.0	0
SEP	71	47	59	7.3	3.1	0
OCT	59	36	59	7.8	3.1	0
NOV	44	28	60	8.5	3.5	6.0
DEC	31	13	62	8.7	3.2	21.9



St. Marys, GA

Rank: 57

Location: 30.00 N and 81.00 W at 10 feet in extreme southeast Georgia on the Atlantic Coast. It is the state's oldest city. Immediately south is Florida and greater Jacksonville.

Landscape: Flat plains. Like Florida to the south, relief is less than 300 feet, although some areas are gently rolling. There are typical southern mixed forests of loblolly and slash pine, and bald cypress is a dominant tree in swamps.

Climate: Subtropical. Average temperatures compare with those of southern portions of California, Brazil, China, and Australia. In contrast to places farther south, there is a more definite march of the four seasons here. There is considerable winter rain and less sunshine. Summer is the least pleasant time of year, with humidity and high temperatures bringing discomfort. The freeze-free growing season is from early March to mid-November.

Summer mildness: 1
Winter mildness: 95

Seasonal affect: 50
Hazard free: 91

	95
	127
	143
	82
	12
	0
	175
	70
	58

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	64	64	73	8.2	3.3	0
FEB	67	67	70	9.0	3.9	0
MAR	73	73	68	9.0	3.7	0
APR	79	79	67	8.6	2.8	0
MAY	85	85	68	8.0	3.6	0
JUN	89	89	72	7.7	5.7	0
JUL	91	91	73	7.1	5.6	0
AUG	91	91	76	6.7	7.9	0
SEP	87	87	77	7.5	7.1	0
OCT	80	80	75	8.0	2.9	0
NOV	74	74	73	7.8	2.2	0
DEC	67	67	73	7.8	2.7	0

St. Simons-Jekyll Islands, GA

Rank: 34

Location: 31.13 N and 81.21 W at 10 feet, on the Intracoastal Waterway, 65 miles south of Savannah, and 54 miles north of Jacksonville, Florida.

Landscape: Flat plains, with no elevation higher than 20 feet. Shell beaches blend into the surrounding marshlands. The low terrain and low-latitude location make the area vulnerable to occasional tropical storms, though their full force is felt infrequently. The outer coastal plain, reached by a causeway, is a temperate rainforest with Evangeline oak, long-leaf pine, laurel, Bayonet palmettos, holly, and magnolia. Flowers bloom through the winter, and climbing vines are prevalent.

Climate: The area enjoys mild and relatively short winters due to the moderating effect of coastal waters. Summers are warm and humid, but very high temperatures are rare. Heat waves are usually interrupted by thundershowers. Even in summer the nights are usually pleasant. With first frost on December 3 and last frost on February 24, there is a long growing season.

Summer mildness: 31
Winter mildness: 86

Seasonal affect: 62
Hazard free: 78

	97
	127
	141
	42
	16
	0
	38
	68
	66

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	42	54	8.2	3.3	0
FEB	62	44	50	9.0	3.9	0.1
MAR	69	51	48	9.0	3.9	0
APR	76	58	45	8.6	2.5	0
MAY	82	66	50	8.0	3.3	0
JUN	87	72	54	7.8	5.0	0
JUL	90	74	57	7.1	5.6	0
AUG	88	74	61	6.8	7.0	0
SEP	85	71	60	7.6	6.5	0
OCT	77	61	53	8.1	2.9	0
NOV	70	52	52	7.7	2.6	0
DEC	63	45	55	7.8	3.1	0

Sandpoint-Lake Pend Oreille, ID

Rank: 184

Location: 48.16 N and 116.33 W at 2,086 feet, in the Idaho panhandle, 50 miles south of the Canadian border. Spokane, Washington, is 75 miles southwest.

Landscape: High mountains. Lake Pend Oreille, near the outflow of the Pend Oreille River, is 43 miles long and 6 miles at its widest. The surface of the lake reflects the surrounding Selkirk, Cabinet, and Coeur d'Alene mountain ranges, with peaks rising over 6,000 feet. The Kaniksu National Forest is mixed coniferous and deciduous. Douglas fir, hemlock, and cedar predominate in this high valley surrounded by mountain ranges.

Climate: Continental and generally described as rigorous. Summers are dry and bright. Falls are pleasant but all too short. Winters are long, cold, and snowy. First frost by September 11; last frost by early June. Though seasonal temperature variation is large, it's less so than in most other locations this far north.

Summer mildness: 94
Winter mildness: 8

Seasonal affect: 6
Hazard free: 9

	86
	87
	192
	15
	187
	7
	47
	80
	11

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	30	19	80	8.8	4.0	31.0
FEB	37	22	78	9.3	3.1	14.1
MAR	45	26	65	9.7	2.8	8.3
APR	56	31	55	10.0	2.1	0
MAY	66	38	51	9.2	2.4	0
JUN	74	45	47	9.2	2.1	0
JUL	82	47	37	8.6	1.2	0
AUG	82	47	40	8.2	1.5	0
SEP	71	40	45	8.3	1.5	0
OCT	56	33	59	8.2	2.0	0
NOV	38	28	75	8.7	4.3	10.0
DEC	30	22	83	8.6	4.5	25.9

**San Juan Islands, WA****Rank: 61**

Location: The weather station is Friday Harbor, 48.32 N and 123.00 W at 91 feet, in the midst of an archipelago of 172 islands that make up San Juan County in northwestern Washington. Bellingham is 20 miles east by ferry.

Landscape: Plains with low mountains. The islands are a submerged mountain chain in upper Puget Sound, where the straits of Juan de Fuca and Georgia meet at the Canadian border. Mt. Constitution, at 2,409 feet, is the highest point on the islands. Many are low flat or flat-topped hills, with wooded forests of Sitka spruce and western hemlock. Madrona, with a red-skinned trunk, is scattered throughout the coniferous forests at these low levels.

Climate: Marine, with mild summers and cool winters, moist air, and small daily temperature variation. First frost comes October 20; last frost leaves April 21. Summers are dry. Like most other places in this region, the area is often foggy and cloudy.

Summer mildness: 86**Seasonal affect:** 2**Winter mildness:** 71**Hazard free:** 77

	50
	84
	231
	0
	68
	0
	90
	91
	5

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	43	32	77	7.1	4.7	2.7
FEB	48	35	74	7.2	3.6	0.6
MAR	51	36	71	7.4	3.0	1.1
APR	56	40	68	7.4	2.7	0
MAY	62	45	65	6.9	2.3	0
JUN	67	51	64	6.7	1.8	0
JUL	71	53	63	6.2	1.3	0
AUG	71	54	63	6.0	1.4	0
SEP	67	48	67	5.7	1.9	0
OCT	58	42	74	5.9	3.4	0
NOV	50	37	77	6.9	5.0	0
DEC	44	33	79	7.3	5.0	1.8

★ **Santa Barbara, CA****Rank: 1**

Location: 34.25 N and 119.42 W at 100 feet, in the Santa Maria Valley, 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Landscape: High mountains. The valley is flat and fertile, opening onto the Pacific Ocean at the base of the Santa Ynez Mountains. The foothills of the San Rafael Mountains, the Solomon Hills, and the Casmalia Hills bound it. Cypress and pine groves predominate in the mixed evergreen forest.

Climate: Mediterranean, including a rainy season typical of the California coast in winter. Particularly from June to October, there's little or no precipitation. Clear, sunny afternoons prevail on most days. At night and in the morning, however, the California stratus and fog appear.

Summer mildness: 74**Seasonal affect:** 89**Winter mildness:** 100**Hazard free:** 100

	147
	116
	103
	3
	0
	0
	19
	17
	3

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	64	40	56	4.8	3.2	0
FEB	65	43	57	6.3	3.6	0
MAR	65	45	59	6.7	2.8	0
APR	67	47	60	7.6	1.1	0
MAY	69	50	62	7.1	0.2	0
JUN	71	54	66	6.8	0.0	0
JUL	74	57	66	6.5	0.0	0
AUG	75	58	67	6.1	0.1	0
SEP	75	57	65	5.8	0.5	0
OCT	73	52	62	5.5	0.5	0
NOV	69	45	56	5.3	2.0	0
DEC	64	40	54	5.0	2.2	0

Santa Fe, NM**Rank: 86**

Location: 35.40 N and 105.56 W at 6,947 feet, in the north-central part of the state, 60 miles from Albuquerque.

Landscape: Plains with high mountains. The city lies in the northern Rio Grande Valley on the Santa Fe River amid rolling foothills of the rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Westward, the terrain slopes to the Rio Grande River some 20 miles away. The high mountains protect the city from much of the winter cold. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir cover the higher slopes; ponderosa pine is on the lower, drier, and more exposed slopes.

Climate: Highland steppe. Winters are crisp, clear, and sunny, with considerable daytime warming. First frost makes appearance by October 6; last frost lingers until May 15. Summers are warm, pleasant, dry, and invigorating. Long cloudy periods are unknown.

Summer mildness: 98**Seasonal affect:** 90**Winter mildness:** 12**Hazard free:** 13

	169
	111
	85
	8
	169
	4
	6
	33
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	40	18	50	8.1	0.9	5.4
FEB	44	21	42	8.9	0.8	5.4
MAR	50	26	32	10.1	1.2	6.9
APR	59	33	25	11.0	1.0	4.0
MAY	68	42	23	10.6	1.2	0
JUN	78	51	22	10.0	1.4	0
JUL	81	55	30	9.1	3.3	0
AUG	78	53	34	8.3	3.5	0
SEP	71	47	35	8.6	2.1	0
OCT	62	38	35	8.3	1.3	1.0
NOV	49	27	38	7.9	1.0	4.0
DEC	41	19	46	7.7	1.1	7.0



★ Sarasota, FL

Rank: 19

Location: 27.20 N and 82.32 W at 27 feet, sheltered from the Gulf of Mexico behind Longboat Key on Sarasota Bay. Tampa is 50 miles north; Fort Myers 75 miles south.

Landscape: Flat plains. The southern Gulf Coastal Plains are flat and irregular. There's less than 200 feet variation in altitude over the gently rolling areas. Most of the streams are sluggish; marshes, swamps, and lakes are numerous. Evergreen oaks, laurel, and magnolia are common. Trees aren't tall, and the leaf canopy is less dense. There is a well-developed underbrush of ferns, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.

Climate: Subtropical. The waters of the Gulf of Mexico and surrounding bays modify temperature throughout the year. Thunderstorms are frequent during late-summer afternoons, rapidly cooling the hot, humid days. Winters are mild. Snow and freezing temperatures are rare.

Summer mildness: 18

Seasonal affect: 72

Winter mildness: 95

Hazard free: 85

	102
	142
	121
	78
	0
	0
	22
	69
	86

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	72	52	56	8.6	2.2	0
FEB	72	53	56	9.2	2.7	0
MAR	77	58	53	9.5	3.2	0
APR	81	61	47	9.3	1.6	0
MAY	86	67	49	8.7	2.6	0
JUN	89	72	56	8.0	6.5	0
JUL	90	73	60	7.2	6.5	0
AUG	91	73	60	7.0	7.9	0
SEP	89	73	60	7.8	7.2	0
OCT	85	66	56	8.5	2.6	0
NOV	79	59	56	8.4	2.1	0
DEC	74	54	56	8.5	2.1	0

Savannah, GA

Rank: 69

Location: 32.05 N and 81.06 W at 42 feet, at the mouth of the Savannah River and Atlantic Ocean. Jacksonville, Florida, is 140 miles down the coast, and Charleston, South Carolina, is 100 miles up the coast.

Landscape: Flat plains, low and marshy to the north and east, rising to several feet above sea level to the west and south. About half the land to the west and south is clear of trees and the other half is woods, much of which lies in swamp. The outer coastal plain is a temperate rainforest that includes live oak, loblolly pine, laurel, and magnolia.

Climate: Subtropical. Summer temperatures are moderated by thundershowers almost every afternoon. Sunshine is adequate in all seasons; seldom are there more than 2 or 3 days in succession without it. First frost makes an appearance by November 14; last frost is gone by March 11. There's abundant rain during the long growing season.

Summer mildness: 24

Seasonal affect: 49

Winter mildness: 83

Hazard free: 71

	104
	111
	150
	76
	33
	0
	39
	70
	61

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	60	38	54	8.5	3.6	0.1
FEB	62	41	50	9.2	3.2	0.2
MAR	70	48	48	9.2	3.8	0
APR	78	55	45	8.7	3.0	0
MAY	84	63	50	7.7	4.1	0
JUN	89	69	54	7.5	5.7	0
JUL	91	72	57	7.1	6.4	0
AUG	90	72	61	6.6	7.5	0
SEP	85	68	60	7.2	4.5	0
OCT	78	57	53	7.4	2.4	0
NOV	70	48	52	7.5	2.2	0
DEC	62	41	54	7.9	3.0	0.1

★ Scottsdale, AZ

Rank: 5

Location: 33.30 N and 111.53 W at 1,259 feet, 10 miles immediately east of Phoenix.

Landscape: Open high mountains. The area lies in the center of the oval-shaped flat Salt River Valley. Mountain ranges surround the valley on all sides, with the famous Superstition Mountain to the east. Although this is a desert, cotton and citrus are cultivated. Native vegetation includes creosote bush, saguaro, cholla, and cereus. An underground water table contributes to the local water supply, along with the Salt and Verde rivers.

Climate: Arid desert climate, with little rainfall and low humidity. Summers are hot with temperatures frequently above 100°F. Winters are cool and can drop below freezing at night. The growing season is long, with the first frost coming late, on December 4, and the last frost coming early, February 14. Cloudy days are rare.

Summer mildness: 24

Seasonal affect: 98

Winter mildness: 98

Hazard free: 96

	212
	84
	69
	163
	20
	0
	2
	19
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	66	41	45	5.3	0.7	0
FEB	71	45	39	5.9	0.7	0
MAR	76	49	34	6.7	0.9	0
APR	85	55	23	7.0	0.2	0
MAY	94	64	18	7.1	0.1	0
JUN	104	73	16	6.8	0.1	0
JUL	106	81	28	7.2	0.8	0
AUG	104	79	33	6.7	1.0	0
SEP	98	73	31	6.3	0.9	0
OCT	88	61	31	5.8	0.7	0
NOV	75	49	37	5.4	0.7	0
DEC	66	42	46	5.1	1.0	0

**Sebring-Avon Park, FL****Rank: 54**

Location: 27.29 N and 81.26 W at 131 feet, circling Lake Jackson in south-central Florida. Orlando is 90 miles north. Sarasota, on the Gulf Coast, is 60 miles west. Ft. Pierce, on the Atlantic Coast, is 60 miles east.

Landscape: Flat plains. Highland lakes region, with sandy ridges giving relief to low-level muckland and flatland. Most of the surrounding acreage is citrus groves and ranches. Hardwood hammock and cabbage palms are dense in the rainforest of Highlands Hammock State Park.

Climate: Subtropical, with a surplus of moisture. As in other Florida locations, the humid, hot summer is cooled by afternoon thunderstorms. Winters are mild and the first frost comes late, December 31; the last frost leaves early, January 23. Annual range of temperature changes is small.

Summer mildness: 7**Seasonal affect:** 60**Winter mildness:** 87**Hazard free:** 86

	92
	148
	125
	137
	4
	0
	27
	76
	82

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	73	48	56	8.9	2.2	0
FEB	75	49	52	9.6	2.8	0
MAR	79	54	50	9.9	3.0	0
APR	85	59	46	9.4	1.7	0
MAY	89	65	49	8.8	4.0	0
JUN	91	70	56	8.0	8.4	0
JUL	92	71	59	7.4	7.7	0
AUG	92	72	60	7.1	7.2	0
SEP	90	71	60	7.7	6.1	0
OCT	85	64	56	8.6	2.8	0
NOV	80	57	55	8.6	1.9	0
DEC	74	51	57	8.6	1.9	0

Sedona, AZ**Rank: 49**

Location: 34.52 N and 111.45 W at 4,280 feet, in Oak Creek Canyon. Phoenix is 90 miles south; Flagstaff 20 miles north.

Landscape: Tablelands with very high relief, overlooking red-hued rocks and buttes of the canyon, whose steep walls rise 1,200 feet. The forest is ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and (at higher elevations) subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce.

Climate: Semiarid mountain steppe. There are strong daily and seasonal temperature changes. The usual winter flow of air is from the Pacific Ocean, bringing frequent snows. Cold air from Canada sometimes drives temperatures below freezing. First frost is October 13; last frost is May 17. Moisture-bearing winds from the southeast Gulf region bring brief rains from July to September.

Summer mildness: 53**Seasonal affect:** 92**Winter mildness:** 55**Hazard free:** 44

	212
	84
	69
	66
	155
	0
	11
	29
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	56	29	45	7.0	1.7	4.5
FEB	60	32	40	6.9	1.8	3.5
MAR	64	35	36	7.5	2.2	6.8
APR	73	41	25	7.9	1.2	2.0
MAY	82	48	20	7.5	0.6	0
JUN	93	56	18	7.1	0.4	0
JUL	97	64	28	5.7	1.8	0
AUG	94	62	33	5.3	2.1	0
SEP	88	56	34	6.0	2.0	0
OCT	78	47	34	6.1	1.5	0
NOV	65	36	37	7.1	1.6	1.0
DEC	56	30	46	7.0	1.8	5.1

Silver City, NM**Rank: 63**

Location: 32.46 N and 108.16 W at 5,851 feet, in south-western New Mexico. Tucson, Arizona, is 170 miles west and El Paso, Texas, 140 miles east.

Landscape: High mountains. East of the Continental Divide in the foothills of the Pinos Altos Range at the edge of the Gila National Forest. There are wild ranges, high cliffs, and remote canyons. The Chihuahuan Desert vegetation includes creosote, ceniza, and ocotillo shrubs. Juniper and piñons are common on rocky outcrops. Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, white fir, and spruce occur in the high forests.

Climate: Desert continental. The rainfall, at 8 inches per year, is light and falls in brief showers through late summer and fall. Drizzles are unknown. Summers are hot, but the nights are cool. Winters tend to be mild and sunny, with freezing nights. The arrival of the first frost on October 30 and the departure of the last frost on April 22 make for a short growing season.

Summer mildness: 38**Seasonal affect:** 94**Winter mildness:** 41**Hazard free:** 61

	193
	100
	72
	112
	110
	0
	2
	23
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	58	25	42	8.4	0.9	2.1
FEB	63	27	34	9.2	0.6	1.8
MAR	70	33	27	11.0	0.7	1.9
APR	78	39	21	11.1	0.2	0
MAY	87	47	21	10.3	0.3	0
JUN	96	57	23	9.3	0.5	0
JUL	96	65	35	8.3	2.0	0
AUG	93	62	39	7.8	2.1	0
SEP	88	56	41	7.6	1.5	0
OCT	79	43	36	7.5	1.2	0
NOV	67	31	37	8.0	0.7	0
DEC	58	25	42	7.9	1.2	0.8

**Silverthorne–Breckenridge, CO****Rank: 146**

Location: The weather station is Breckenridge, 39.29 N and 106.02 W at 9,602 feet near the Continental Divide. Denver is 60 miles east.

Landscape: High mountains. The two most visible elevations are Buffalo (12,777 ft.) and Ptarmigan (13,739 ft.) mountains. Visible below their summits around 11,000 feet is the tree line. Above it is the short-growing, sparse vegetation of the tundra. On the slopes below are thick stands of Engelmann spruce and tall Douglas fir.

Climate: The climate is a temperate semiarid steppe regime that is influenced by the prevailing west winds and the general north–south orientation of the mountain ranges. Winters are cold, snowy, and windy. The first frost arrives September 25 and the last frost departs May 22. Summers are ideal.

Summer mildness: 92**Seasonal affect:** 64**Winter mildness:** 1**Hazard free:** 4

	113
	113
	139
	32
	188
	10
	32
	61
	31

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	29	-1	71	10.1	1.4	19.1
FEB	32	1	61	10.2	1.2	11.2
MAR	36	9	50	10.8	1.6	8.0
APR	45	18	43	10.3	1.5	2.8
MAY	55	26	40	8.8	1.6	0.3
JUN	66	33	32	8.0	1.6	0
JUL	73	39	35	7.5	2.7	0
AUG	71	37	38	7.0	2.5	0
SEP	63	30	39	7.5	1.5	0
OCT	53	22	46	7.7	1.2	0.8
NOV	39	11	59	9.1	1.3	6.3
DEC	30	3	69	9.8	1.5	14.4

Smith Mountain Lake, VA**Rank: 108**

Location: 37.02 N and 79.32 W at 795 feet, in foothills on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in south-west Virginia. Roanoke is 30 miles northwest and Greensboro, North Carolina, 100 miles south.

Landscape: Low mountains. This 22,000-acre artificial lake is located in a natural notch in a 7-mile-long ridge, Smith Mountain, just below the confluence of the Blackwater and Roanoke rivers. The woods on the slopes are a typical southeastern mixed forest of medium-tall to tall oak, hickory, sweet gum, and red maple, together with loblolly and shortleaf pine. The undergrowth is dogwood, viburnum, blueberry, youpon, and numerous woody vines.

Climate: Hot continental, with four distinct seasons. First frost arrives by October 14; last frost departs on April 26. Winters are short, summers somewhat hot and humid. Spring and autumn are ideal. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year, mostly as rain. In mid-summer, mountain thunderstorms are likely.

Summer mildness: 64**Seasonal affect:** 54**Winter mildness:** 39**Hazard free:** 38

	102
	113
	150
	17
	123
	2
	23
	69
	36

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	42	20	55	9.5	2.3	5.8
FEB	45	22	52	9.7	2.3	4.7
MAR	55	30	50	10.1	2.9	3.5
APR	65	38	47	9.8	2.8	0
MAY	73	48	54	7.9	3.6	0
JUN	81	56	56	6.9	2.8	0
JUL	85	61	59	6.5	3.5	0
AUG	84	59	60	6.1	3.7	0
SEP	77	52	60	6.1	3.5	0
OCT	67	39	55	6.9	3.6	0
NOV	57	32	53	8.3	3.0	0
DEC	46	24	56	8.8	2.4	2.0

★ Sonora–Twain Harte, CA**Rank: 16**

Location: The weather station is Sonora, 37.59 N and 120.23 W at 1,854 feet. Sacramento is 90 miles northwest. Modesto, in the central valley, is 40 miles southwest.

Landscape: Situated in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at the edge of the Stanislaus National Forest. There are five rivers that drain the region. Chaparral in the low elevations gives way to digger pine and several oak species in the higher mountains.

Climate: Sierran forest climate in the transition zone between the dry west coast desert and the wet west coast farther north. Prevailing west winds influence conditions jointly with elevation. Therefore, the summers are long and generally dry. Most of the annual precipitation falls as rain rather than snow. The first frost arrives on November 12 and the last frost leaves April 14.

Summer mildness: 51**Seasonal affect:** 76**Winter mildness:** 69**Hazard free:** 83

	189
	75
	100
	83
	64
	0
	34
	43
	14

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	55	32	80	7.2	5.6	0.4
FEB	59	34	75	7.6	5.0	0
MAR	61	36	65	8.6	5.3	0.4
APR	67	40	55	8.7	2.7	0
MAY	77	45	48	9.2	0.8	0
JUN	87	51	44	9.7	0.2	0
JUL	95	57	44	9.0	0.1	0
AUG	94	56	45	8.6	0.2	0
SEP	87	51	45	7.5	0.6	0
OCT	77	43	53	6.4	1.8	0
NOV	62	36	65	6.0	4.8	0
DEC	54	32	77	6.6	4.6	0.1

**Southern Berkshire County, MA****Rank: 171**

Location: The weather station is Great Barrington, 42.11 N and 73.21 W at 721 feet, in the rural corner where Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut meet.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The Berkshire Plateau in the east and the Taconic Mountains in the west enclose the Berkshire Valley. Rolling, open meadows are watered by the headwaters of the Housatonic River. A typical northern deciduous forest covers the uplands with maple, birch, beech, oak, and a scattering of pine. The low growth is shrub, herb, and fern.

Climate: Hot continental, with large temperature variations from season to season. Winters receive Canadian air sweeping down the Hudson Valley to the west and bring the first frost by October 15; the last frost departs a little late, April 27. December to February is cold, with long-lasting snow. Springs are short. Summers are clear, warm, and ideal. Falls are bright and extend through mid-November.

Summer mildness: 77**Seasonal affect:** 17**Winter mildness:** 23**Hazard free:** 19

	81
	109
	175
	19
	135
	6
	29
	75
	21

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	31	9	58	9.0	3.0	16.3
FEB	33	12	57	9.4	2.9	14.1
MAR	43	22	53	9.9	3.2	10.7
APR	56	32	49	10.0	3.8	2.0
MAY	68	42	49	8.9	4.5	0
JUN	76	51	55	8.1	4.1	0
JUL	80	56	55	7.5	4.0	0
AUG	78	54	57	7.2	4.6	0
SEP	71	46	59	7.3	3.7	0
OCT	60	35	59	7.8	3.5	0
NOV	48	28	60	8.5	3.9	4.0
DEC	35	17	62	8.7	3.6	15.1

Southern Pines–Pinehurst, NC**Rank: 106**

Location: 35.10 N and 79.23 W at 512 feet, 75 miles south of Chapel Hill in the southern heartland of the state.

Landscape: Irregular plains. This area is in gently rolling sand-hill country between the foothills of the Uwharrie Mountains and the coastal plains. The woods are a hardwood swamp forest, with broadleaf deciduous and needle-leaf evergreens.

Climate: Subtropical, with mild winters and hot, humid summers. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year, but peaks slightly in midsummer or early spring thunderstorms. Occasionally there will be summer droughts. Unprotected by the mountains, the first frost will come by September 29 and the last frost departs on May 9. Snow is rare.

Summer mildness: 50**Seasonal affect:** 42**Winter mildness:** 48**Hazard free:** 55

	112
	106
	147
	43
	111
	0
	34
	74
	44

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	49	24	55	8.5	4.0	2.1
FEB	53	27	52	8.9	4.0	1.8
MAR	62	35	49	9.3	4.4	1.3
APR	71	43	45	9.0	3.2	0
MAY	78	52	54	7.7	4.5	0
JUN	85	60	56	7.0	4.0	0
JUL	88	64	58	6.7	4.9	0
AUG	87	63	60	6.4	4.8	0
SEP	82	56	60	6.8	3.5	0
OCT	72	43	54	7.1	3.7	0
NOV	63	35	55	7.6	3.2	0
DEC	53	28	55	8.0	3.5	0.5

Southport–Brunswick Islands, NC**Rank: 92**

Location: 33.55 N and 78.01 W at 34 feet, on the Atlantic Ocean in North Carolina's extreme southeastern corner. Wilmington is 30 miles north.

Landscape: Flat plains. The surrounding low-lying terrain is typical of the state's coastal plain. The average elevation is less than 40 feet and level. Many rivers, creeks, and lakes are nearby, with considerable swampy growth surrounding them. Large tracts of southern mixed forest alternate with cultivated fields.

Climate: A strong maritime influence. Summers are warm and humid, but excessive heat is rare. During the colder part of the year, polar air reaches the coastal areas, causing sharp temperature drops. Rainfall is ample and well distributed, with most occurring in summer thundershowers. In winter, rain may fall steadily for several days. Snowfall is slight. Some tropical storms reach the Cape Fear area every few years. November 11 will see the first frost and March 21 will see the last frost.

Summer mildness: 41**Seasonal affect:** 47**Winter mildness:** 60**Hazard free:** 58

	112
	104
	150
	20
	42
	0
	24
	74
	48

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	55	32	56	9.1	4.7	0.5
FEB	57	34	52	9.8	4.4	0.6
MAR	64	42	52	10.2	4.4	0.3
APR	72	50	48	10.3	3.0	0
MAY	79	59	55	9.2	4.0	0
JUN	85	67	59	8.5	4.9	0
JUL	88	71	63	8.0	6.9	0
AUG	88	70	64	7.4	7.1	0
SEP	83	64	62	7.9	6.8	0
OCT	75	52	56	8.1	3.3	0
NOV	68	43	53	8.1	3.3	0
DEC	59	35	55	8.5	4.1	0.3



State College, PA

Rank: 142

Location: 40.47 N and 77.51 W at 1,157 feet. Philadelphia is 190 miles east; Pittsburgh 140 miles west.

Landscape: Open low mountains. The ridges and valleys of the Appalachians run northeast to southwest, with elevations varying from 977 to 2,400 feet. In the Nittany Valley rolling meadows and where the foothills of the Allegheny Plateau rise to the west, forests of pine, hemlock, and hardwoods of beech, maple, oak, ash, and cherry were once more common before the clear-cut harvests. The surrounding higher elevations are now covered with second-growth forests.

Climate: Hot continental, with temperatures moderated by the surrounding mountain elevations. The city is protected by its eastern slope location, producing drier, somewhat less humid seasons. Winters are cold and relatively dry, with thick cloud cover. The first frost comes on October 15; the last frost leaves April 27. Summer and fall are the most pleasant seasons.

Summer mildness: 81

Winter mildness: 40

Seasonal affect: 24

Hazard free: 21

	87
	109
	169
	8
	131
	5
	19
	76
	32

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	33	17	58	8.3	2.4	11.7
FEB	36	18	55	9.0	2.6	11.7
MAR	46	27	52	9.5	3.2	11.1
APR	58	37	49	9.2	2.9	1.0
MAY	70	48	52	7.6	3.6	0
JUN	78	56	53	6.8	4.0	0
JUL	82	61	52	6.2	3.6	0
AUG	80	59	55	5.8	3.2	0
SEP	73	52	56	6.1	3.2	0
OCT	62	41	54	6.6	2.8	0
NOV	49	33	57	7.8	3.2	3.0
DEC	37	23	58	8.0	2.7	9.5

Sullivan County, NY

Rank: 186

Location: 41.00 N and 74.00 W at 1,580 feet in the southern part of New York State in the midst of the Catskill Mountains. New York City is 75 miles southeast.

Landscape: Low mountains. Rolling hills occur in many places; there are lakes, poorly drained depressions, morainic hills, drumlins, eskers, outwash plains, and other glacial features that are typical of the area. A transitional forest includes mixed stands of a few coniferous species and a few deciduous species, principally yellow birch, sugar maple, and the American beech. Where the soil is good, a more pure deciduous forest exists.

Climate: Continental with moderately long winters that are somewhat severe, but with more than 120 days that have temperatures above 50°F. Snow usually stays on the ground all winter. The area is north of the main cyclonic belt during winter; but during summer it lies within this belt, and the weather is changeable.

Summer mildness: 65

Winter mildness: 34

Seasonal affect: 4

Hazard free: 14

	55
	101
	209
	4
	150
	10
	175
	89
	18

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	30	11	75	11.5	3.0	17.2
FEB	33	12	73	11.6	2.9	19.5
MAR	42	22	71	11.7	3.2	16.1
APR	55	33	66	11.4	3.8	4.7
MAY	66	43	67	10.0	4.5	0.2
JUN	74	51	70	9.3	4.1	0
JUL	79	56	71	8.4	4.0	0
AUG	78	54	75	8.2	4.6	0
SEP	70	47	77	8.8	3.7	0
OCT	59	36	74	9.8	3.5	0.6
NOV	47	29	76	10.9	3.9	6.4
DEC	34	17	76	11.2	3.6	16.6

Summerville, SC

Rank: 129

Location: 33.0106 N and 80.1033 W at 75 feet, 25 miles northwest of Charleston.

Landscape: Flat plains. The local terrain is mostly swamp-land and forest. Southeast is the Atlantic Ocean, and east is the Francis Marion National Forest. Tree cover includes oak, sweet and black gums, and bald cypress.

Climate: Subtropical, with moderation from the ocean. Summer is a period of heat and humidity, with frequent thunderstorms. Fall and winter are cool but rarely cold. With the first frost arriving fairly late, on November 6, and the last frost leaving rather early, on March 27, the growing season is extended. Spring is warm, windy, and sunny.

Summer mildness: 8

Winter mildness: 64

Seasonal affect: 38

Hazard free: 65

	104
	109
	152
	59
	50
	0
	28
	74
	56

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	57	33	70	9.1	4.0	0
FEB	61	35	67	9.9	3.6	0.6
MAR	69	43	67	10.0	4.5	0
APR	76	49	67	9.7	3.1	0
MAY	83	58	69	8.7	4.3	0
JUN	88	66	72	8.4	6.1	0
JUL	90	70	75	7.9	6.1	0
AUG	89	69	77	7.4	6.9	0
SEP	85	64	76	7.8	4.8	0
OCT	77	52	72	8.1	3.1	0
NOV	70	43	70	8.1	2.5	0
DEC	61	36	69	8.5	3.3	0.1

**Taos, NM****Rank: 97**

Location: 36.24 N and 105.34 W at 6,983 feet, 40 miles south of the Colorado border. Santa Fe is 70 miles south and Albuquerque 130 miles southwest.

Landscape: High mountains. In an area where the western flank of the Sangre de Cristo range meets the semiarid high desert of the upper Rio Grande Valley. Wheeler Peak (13,161 ft.), the highest point in New Mexico, is nearby. The relief includes deep gorges, mountainous skylines, and wide valleys. Typical steppe vegetation consists of numerous shortgrasses, scattered shrubs, and low trees. Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir cover the intermediate slopes, and ponderosa pine is on the lower, drier, more exposed areas.

Climate: Steppe and semiarid continental. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year, falling as rain in summer storms and snow in the cold winters. Summers are clear, mild, and ideal. First frost comes by October 4; last frost departs May 12.

Summer mildness: 97**Seasonal affect:** 88**Winter mildness:** 9**Hazard free:** 6

	169
	111
	85
	9
	163
	5
	6
	34
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	39	7	50	8.1	0.6	8.2
FEB	44	14	42	8.9	0.5	7.5
MAR	52	21	32	10.1	0.8	6.8
APR	61	28	25	11.0	0.8	5.0
MAY	71	37	23	10.6	0.9	1.0
JUN	81	45	22	10.0	1.1	0
JUL	85	51	30	9.1	1.6	0
AUG	82	49	34	8.3	2.0	0
SEP	75	42	35	8.6	1.5	0
OCT	65	31	35	8.3	1.1	2.0
NOV	51	20	38	7.9	0.8	7.0
DEC	41	10	46	7.7	0.8	8.2

Thomasville, GA**Rank: 59**

Location: 30.50 N and 83.58 W at 250 feet, in the extreme southern part of the state. Tallahassee, Florida, is 35 miles southwest.

Landscape: Irregular plains. At the western edge of the coastal plain in low, gently sloping pinelands near the Ochlockonee River. Stands of temperate rainforest of evergreen and laurel occur. The city is noted for a profusion of moss-covered live oaks, and roses, azaleas, camellias, and other ornamental shrubs.

Climate: Subtropical, with no freezing winters. Summers are hot and humid. The annual temperature range is small to moderate. Rainfall is abundant and well distributed throughout the year. The first frost comes November 11 and the last frost goes March 12.

Summer mildness: 13**Seasonal affect:** 60**Winter mildness:** 93**Hazard free:** 71

	102
	130
	133
	94
	34
	0
	50
	71
	83

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	63	39	58	6.8	4.5	0.1
FEB	67	41	54	7.4	5.0	0.3
MAR	74	48	52	7.5	5.1	0
APR	81	54	47	6.9	3.6	0
MAY	87	61	50	6.3	4.2	0
JUN	91	68	55	5.8	5.4	0
JUL	92	71	61	5.2	6.2	0
AUG	92	70	62	5.0	5.1	0
SEP	89	66	59	5.9	3.6	0
OCT	82	55	52	6.3	2.2	0
NOV	74	47	55	6.1	3.1	0
DEC	66	41	52	6.4	4.3	0

Toms River–Barnegat Bay, NJ**Rank: 157**

Location: 39.57 N and 74.12 W at 40 feet, in the center of New Jersey's Atlantic Coast. New York City is 95 miles north; Atlantic City 50 miles south.

Landscape: Smooth plains composed of tidal marshes and beach sand. The dunes provide vantages for observing bird migrations along the Atlantic flyway. Inland is a forest of mixed evergreens.

Climate: Hot continental, with the moderating influence of the Atlantic apparent throughout the year. Summers are relatively cooler and winters warmer than those of other places at the same latitude. During the warm season, sea breezes in the late morning and afternoon prevent excessive heat and may lower the temperature 15 degrees within half an hour. Fall is long, lasting until mid-November. On the other hand, warming is delayed in spring. Precipitation is moderate and well distributed throughout the year. First frost may come as early as October 30; last frost leaves by mid-April.

Summer mildness: 68**Seasonal affect:** 24**Winter mildness:** 22**Hazard free:** 39

	95
	110
	160
	12
	98
	0
	44
	73
	27

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	39	22	58	11.0	3.6	5.3
FEB	41	24	56	11.4	3.4	5.5
MAR	49	32	54	11.9	4.1	2.6
APR	58	40	52	11.8	4.1	0
MAY	68	50	56	10.2	4.3	0
JUN	77	59	56	9.2	3.5	0
JUL	82	65	57	8.5	4.4	0
AUG	81	64	58	8.1	4.4	0
SEP	75	58	60	8.4	3.6	0
OCT	65	47	60	9.0	3.5	0
NOV	55	38	64	10.5	4.2	0
DEC	44	28	67	10.6	4.0	2.3

**Traverse City, MI****Rank: 188**

Location: 44.45 N and 85.37 W at 599 feet, on Grand Traverse Bay. Detroit is 245 miles southeast.

Landscape: Plains with hills. The tip of the 20-mile Old Mission Peninsula, jutting into the bay from the city, is exactly midway between the Equator and the North Pole. The terrain is generally level or gently undulating, with sandy and gravelly soils. The region abounds with lakes. The forest is second-growth pine and hemlock. Maple, oak, and birch are occasional deciduous trees.

Climate: Though rigorous because of its interior and northerly location, the climate is modified by the Great Lakes on either side of the Michigan peninsula. Consequently, summer temperatures average at least 5 degrees cooler than in locations in the southern part of the state. However, winters are severe, with cold spells that may last for a week and snowfall that averages almost 75 inches. First frost comes by October 17; last frost by May 10.

Summer mildness: 72**Seasonal affect:** 25**Winter mildness:** 5**Hazard free:** 3

	67
	89
	210
	5
	143
	5
	23
	71
	23

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	30	17	77	12.6	2.2	23.1
FEB	33	17	72	11.6	1.5	15.4
MAR	42	24	66	11.9	2.0	10.4
APR	56	35	60	11.8	2.7	2.0
MAY	68	44	58	10.1	2.5	0
JUN	76	53	61	9.5	3.3	0
JUL	81	59	63	8.7	2.7	0
AUG	79	58	64	8.5	3.6	0
SEP	72	52	66	9.4	4.0	0
OCT	61	43	68	10.8	3.2	0
NOV	47	33	72	11.9	2.9	12.0
DEC	34	22	78	12.1	2.5	25.5

Tryon, NC**Rank: 95**

Location: 35.12 N and 82.14 W at 1,085 feet, just above the South Carolina border. Asheville is 30 miles north.

Landscape: Low mountains. Central mountain region of North Carolina, with the Blue Ridge to the north. Nearby are waterfalls, and valleys of rolling farmland, together with lakes and ski areas. The surrounding Appalachian oak forest also includes tulip trees, sweet chestnut, birch, hickory, walnut, and maple. In spring, a low layer of herbaceous plants quickly develops but is reduced after the trees reach full foliage.

Climate: Hot continental, with a strong annual cycle of cool winters and warm summers. The surrounding mountains and valleys produce a variety of microclimates, and the presence of thermal winds provides a pleasingly mild climate in lower elevations. Precipitation, usually rain, is adequate in all months. Spring comes earlier in this "thermal belt" than just a few miles north or south. First frost won't arrive until late October; last frost leaves in early April.

Summer mildness: 44**Seasonal affect:** 31**Winter mildness:** 75**Hazard free:** 52

	122
	100
	143
	41
	70
	0
	34
	83
	43

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	52	30	55	7.4	5.2	2.7
FEB	56	32	53	8.0	5.4	2.8
MAR	66	39	52	8.1	6.5	1.7
APR	74	46	48	7.9	4.7	0
MAY	81	55	54	6.9	5.9	0
JUN	86	62	54	6.4	5.7	0
JUL	88	66	60	5.9	5.3	0
AUG	87	65	62	5.7	5.9	0
SEP	82	59	62	6.1	5.4	0
OCT	73	48	55	6.5	5.4	0
NOV	64	40	54	6.8	4.8	0
DEC	55	33	55	7.3	5.1	1.0

Tucson, AZ**Rank: 37**

Location: 32.13 N and 110.55 W at 2,437 feet, on the Santa Cruz River, 120 miles southeast of Phoenix and 60 miles above the Mexican border.

Landscape: At the foot of the Catalina Mountains in a broad, flat to gently rolling valley floor rimmed by mountains. Northeast, the Coronado National Forest is typical of pine, spruce, and fir forests of the higher elevations.

Climate: Desert, with a sunny, dry climate and a unique desert-mountain location. There's a long, hot season beginning in April and ending in October. High temperatures are modified by low humidity. Tucson lies in the zone receiving more sunshine than any other in the United States. Clear skies or very thin, high clouds permit intense surface heating during the day and active radiation cooling at night. Summer is the rainy season with robust, active thunderstorms. The first frost arrives November 2 and the last frost departs April 15.

Summer mildness: 30**Seasonal affect:** 92**Winter mildness:** 63**Hazard free:** 68

	195
	90
	80
	93
	112
	0
	2
	33
	42

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	64	39	40	7.9	0.9	0.3
FEB	68	41	35	8.1	0.7	0.2
MAR	73	45	29	8.5	0.7	0.3
APR	81	50	21	8.9	0.3	0
MAY	90	58	17	8.7	0.2	0
JUN	100	68	17	8.6	0.2	0
JUL	99	74	33	8.4	2.4	0
AUG	97	72	38	7.8	2.2	0
SEP	93	68	32	8.3	1.7	0
OCT	84	57	30	8.1	1.1	0
NOV	73	46	32	8.1	0.7	0
DEC	64	40	39	7.8	1.1	0.3

**Vero Beach, FL****Rank: 50**

Location: 27.38 N and 80.24 W at 17 feet, near the center of Florida's Atlantic Coast. Palm Beach is 50 miles south.

Landscape: Flat plains, with miles of dunes and barrier beach on the coastal plain northeast of Lake Okeechobee. Native vegetation includes sea-oat grass, seagrape, and cabbage palm. Live oaks shade many of the residential streets while oleander, hibiscus, and bougainvillea lend a tropical atmosphere.

Climate: Subtropical, on the northern border of Florida's warmest thermal belt. Nearness to the Atlantic results in a climate tempered by land and sea breezes. Apparent temperatures in summer may top 90°F during the late morning or early afternoon but are cut short by midday sea breezes and afternoon convective thundershowers. Winters can have cold airflows from the north but usually are mild because of the area's ocean setting and southerly latitude.

Summer mildness: 17**Seasonal affect:** 63**Winter mildness:** 91**Hazard free:** 72

	99
	134
	133
	58
	1
	0
	15
	77
	70

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	73	50	59	8.7	2.2	0
FEB	74	51	56	9.2	2.9	0
MAR	78	56	56	9.9	3.1	0
APR	82	60	52	9.2	2.0	0
MAY	86	65	57	9.1	4.6	0
JUN	88	70	64	7.9	6.7	0
JUL	90	72	65	7.1	6.4	0
AUG	90	72	64	6.5	6.5	0
SEP	89	72	64	7.6	7.4	0
OCT	84	66	61	8.9	5.8	0
NOV	79	59	62	8.9	3.3	0
DEC	74	53	59	8.1	2.1	0.2

★ Victorville–Apple Valley, CA**Rank: 9**

Location: 34.32 N and 117.17 W at 2,715 feet, in the high desert of the Victor Valley, 78 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Landscape: Plains with low mountains. On the southwestern edge of the Mohave Desert and north of the San Bernardino Mountains and National Forest. This is dramatic country where mountain peaks thousands of feet high look down on valleys lying below sea level.

Climate: Desert. Nights are invariably much cooler than the days. Springs and summers in the Victor Valley are warm to hot, often topping 100°F. Humidity remains low during those months. In contrast, fall and winter temperatures occasionally drop to freezing or below. The first frost is late on November 5; last frost, a little early on April 13. Most of the annual precipitation falls in the winter as rain on the lower slopes and in great amounts of snow in the higher mountains and just a trace on the valley floor.

Summer mildness: 48**Seasonal affect:** 98**Winter mildness:** 69**Hazard free:** 89

	242
	75
	48
	104
	79
	0
	2
	12
	7

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	58	30	40	7.3	0.8	0.8
FEB	63	34	35	7.4	0.9	0.1
MAR	66	37	30	7.9	0.9	0.1
APR	73	41	25	8.3	0.4	0
MAY	81	48	23	8.3	0.2	0
JUN	91	55	22	8.5	0.1	0
JUL	97	61	32	9.5	0.2	0
AUG	96	61	35	8.9	0.3	0
SEP	90	55	35	7.3	0.4	0
OCT	80	45	32	6.6	0.3	0
NOV	67	36	34	6.9	0.6	0
DEC	59	30	41	7.2	0.7	0.2

Waynesville, NC**Rank: 121**

Location: 35.00 N and 83.00 W at 2,660 feet in a valley amid 6,000-foot mountains—including the famed Cold Mountain—in the southern Appalachians. Asheville is 30 miles northeast.

Landscape: Low mountains. The surrounding forest is hardwood, composed of birch, beech, maple, elm, red oak, and basswood, with an admixture of hemlock and white pine.

Climate: Temperate, with distinct summer and winter, and all areas are subject to frost. Average annual temperatures range from below 50°F in the north to about 64°F at the south end of the highlands. The average length of the frost-free period is about 100 days in the northern mountains, and about 220 days in the low southern parts of the Appalachian Highlands.

Summer mildness: 68**Seasonal affect:** 19**Winter mildness:** 58**Hazard free:** 37

	100
	113
	152
	7
	92
	0
	78
	78
	42

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	47	23	59	9.2	2.6	3.8
FEB	51	26	56	9.3	3.5	4.4
MAR	60	33	53	9.4	3.9	3.2
APR	68	40	50	8.8	3.2	0.1
MAY	75	47	57	7.3	3.6	0
JUN	80	55	59	6.3	3.3	0
JUL	83	59	63	6.1	2.9	0
AUG	82	58	63	5.4	3.8	0
SEP	76	52	64	5.7	3.2	0
OCT	68	40	57	6.7	2.5	0
NOV	59	33	57	8.2	2.9	0.7
DEC	51	27	59	8.9	2.5	2.1



Wenatchee, WA

Rank: 129

Location: 47.25 N and 120.18 W at 645 feet, in central Washington, roughly 150 miles midway between Seattle to the west and Spokane to the east.

Landscape: High mountains. Here is the juncture of the Wenatchee and Columbia rivers. The rounded, shrubbed Wenatchee Mountains are off to the southwest, and the Columbia Plain stretches east in juniper grasslands. The uplands are moderately dissected, hilly, and steep. The tablelands are fertile and covered with loess.

Climate: Steppe grassland, generally shielded from the wet Pacific-driven weather by the Cascade Range. Summers are warm and nearly rainless. Winters are cool, foggy, and rainy. Snow is plentiful in the higher mountains. The first frost arrives October 20; last frost leaves April 17.

Summer mildness: 71

Seasonal affect: 41

Winter mildness: 28

Hazard free: 35

	86
	87
	192
	33
	118
	1
	48
	26
	11

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	35	22	80	8.8	1.3	11.7
FEB	43	27	77	9.3	0.9	4.1
MAR	55	33	67	9.7	0.6	1.8
APR	64	40	53	10.0	0.6	0
MAY	73	48	49	9.2	0.5	0
JUN	81	55	45	9.2	0.6	0
JUL	88	60	37	8.6	0.2	0
AUG	87	59	38	8.2	0.5	0
SEP	78	50	40	8.3	0.4	0
OCT	64	40	56	8.2	0.5	0
NOV	47	32	79	8.7	1.3	3.0
DEC	36	25	84	8.6	1.5	10.1

Western St. Tammany Parish, LA

Rank: 103

Location: 30.28 N and 90.06 W at 30 feet, on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. A 24-mile causeway across the lake connects the parish with New Orleans.

Landscape: Flat plains. On a low-level area of alluvial plain in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Swamp and marshlands support cypress, small palms, tree ferns, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. Evergreen-oak and magnolia forests are the natural climax vegetation.

Climate: Subtropical and best described as humid. Lake Pontchartrain and the nearby Gulf of Mexico modify the temperature and decrease its range. Heavy and frequent rains are typical, with daily afternoon thunderstorms from mid-June to September. From December to March, precipitation is likely to be steady rain of 2 or 3 days' duration. During winter and spring, cold rain forms fogs. The first frost comes in November 11 and the last frost goes March 14. Hurricanes are a threat from July to October.

Summer mildness: 5

Seasonal affect: 46

Winter mildness: 80

Hazard free: 66

	103
	119
	144
	91
	32
	0
	28
	76
	69

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	61	39	66	9.4	5.0	0.2
FEB	65	41	63	9.9	6.1	0.2
MAR	72	48	60	9.9	5.9	0
APR	79	55	59	9.4	4.7	0
MAY	85	62	60	8.1	5.0	0
JUN	90	68	63	6.9	4.9	0
JUL	92	70	66	6.1	6.5	0
AUG	91	70	66	6.0	5.8	0
SEP	88	66	65	7.3	5.1	0
OCT	80	55	59	7.5	3.2	0
NOV	71	48	62	8.7	4.5	0
DEC	64	42	66	9.1	6.0	0.1

Whidbey Island, WA

Rank: 71

Location: The weather station is Coupeville, 48.08 N and 122.35 W at 50 feet, on the Saratoga Passage in Puget Sound, 40 miles above Seattle.

Landscape: Tablelands with moderate relief. At 40 miles long, Whidbey is one of the largest offshore islands in the continental United States. The coast has rocky banks indented by coves and inlets. Inland there are gently rolling hills with patches of Garry Oak, fir, red cedar, and spruce. Penn Cove and Crockett's Lake are important feeding grounds for shorebirds and waterfowl.

Climate: Marine, characterized by moderate temperatures, a pronounced though not sharply defined rainy season, and considerable cloudiness, particularly during winter. Occasionally, severe winter storms come in from the north. Summers are warm and pleasant and winters mild and rainy. The first frost glazes foliage on October 28, and deepens until the last frost departs April 15.

Summer mildness: 89

Seasonal affect: 23

Winter mildness: 47

Hazard free: 67

	57
	81
	228
	0
	52
	0
	43
	62
	7

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	45	34	77	9.8	2.5	2.9
FEB	49	35	74	9.6	1.8	1.1
MAR	53	37	70	9.8	1.8	1.1
APR	57	40	67	9.6	1.8	0
MAY	63	44	64	8.9	1.7	0
JUN	68	48	62	8.7	1.3	0
JUL	72	50	62	8.3	0.8	0
AUG	73	50	63	7.9	1.0	0
SEP	68	46	68	8.1	1.4	0
OCT	59	42	75	8.5	1.7	0
NOV	50	38	78	9.3	2.6	0
DEC	45	35	80	9.6	2.9	1.5



★ Wickenburg, AZ

Rank: 11

Location: 33.58 N and 112.43 W at 2,903 feet, in west-central Arizona. Phoenix is 30 miles southeast.

Landscape: In the Harcuvar Mountains on the Hassayampa River at the northern edge of the Sonoran Desert. A typical desert river, the Hassayampa moves underground for much of the 100-mile length. Where it appears, there is an oasis with cottonwood and willows and supporting a diverse riparian culture. Native vegetation includes mixed grasses, chaparral brush, and oak-juniper woodlands. These uplands of high desert also include the Joshua tree, saguaro, cholla, and ironwood.

Climate: Semiarid mountain steppe, with strong daily and seasonal temperature changes. The usual winter flow of air is from the Pacific, though cold air from Canada sometimes drives temperatures below freezing in the high plateau and mountainous regions. Mid-November ushers in the first frost, late March sees the last frost exit. Summer is dry with daytime temperatures topping 100°F.

Summer mildness: 27

Seasonal affect: 97

Winter mildness: 86

Hazard free: 92

	212
	84
	69
	152
	63
	0
	2
	20
	24

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	65	32	44	5.3	1.2	0
FEB	69	35	37	5.9	1.1	0
MAR	74	39	32	6.7	1.6	0
APR	82	43	22	7.0	0.5	0
MAY	91	51	27	7.1	0.2	0
JUN	101	59	15	6.8	0.1	0
JUL	105	69	27	7.2	1.4	0
AUG	102	68	32	6.7	1.9	0
SEP	96	60	30	6.3	1.4	0
OCT	87	48	30	5.8	0.7	0
NOV	74	38	35	5.4	1.0	0
DEC	66	32	44	5.1	1.3	0.2

Williamsburg, VA

Rank: 148

Location: 37.16 N and 76.42 W at 86 feet, on a tidewater peninsula between the James and York rivers 40 miles midway between Richmond and Norfolk.

Landscape: Irregular plains. Elevated slightly on a ridge, the country is low and level to gently rolling field. Salt flats along brackish rivers are predominantly marsh grass. The southeastern mixed forest has medium-tall to tall oak, hickory, sweet gum, red maple, and winged elm. At least half the stands are filled with loblolly and shortleaf pine. Gums and cypress dominate the coastal marshes and interior swamps. Live oak and wax myrtle grow only in Tidewater.

Climate: Hot continental. Winter is mild, while spring and fall are ideal. First frost arrives by October 28; last frost leaves by April 14. Summers are warm, humid, and long. Precipitation is evenly distributed as rain, though there's occasional snow. The area lies north of the hurricane and tropical storm track and south of high-latitude storm systems.

Summer mildness: 41

Seasonal affect: 39

Winter mildness: 31

Hazard free: 46

	106
	107
	152
	37
	85
	0
	20
	75
	37

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	48	27	60	11.5	3.8	4.2
FEB	51	29	58	12.0	3.5	2.5
MAR	61	36	56	12.5	4.2	1.8
APR	70	44	52	11.8	3.0	0
MAY	78	54	58	10.5	4.5	0
JUN	85	62	58	9.8	4.0	0
JUL	88	67	61	9.0	5.0	0
AUG	87	66	62	8.9	4.7	0
SEP	81	60	62	9.6	4.3	0
OCT	71	48	61	10.4	3.2	0
NOV	63	39	58	10.7	3.5	0
DEC	52	31	60	11.2	3.4	1.2

Wimberley, TX

Rank: 105

Location: 29.59 N and 98.03 W at 840 feet, in the central Texas hill country, 35 miles midway between Austin and San Antonio.

Landscape: Open high hills. The San Marcos River rises from springs here. Caves and lakes dot the nearby green meadows and low-rise hill country. Along the watercourses are cypress and juniper-oak stands.

Climate: Prairie. Though summers are hot, night temperatures usually drop into the 70s. Winters are mild. November 17 sees the first frost arrive; March 17 bids the last frost farewell. Prevailing winds are southerly, though strong northers may bring cold spells that rarely last more than a few days. Precipitation is well distributed but heaviest in late spring, with a secondary rainfall peak in September. Summer brings some heavy thunderstorms. Winter rains are slow and steady.

Summer mildness: 3

Seasonal affect: 66

Winter mildness: 61

Hazard free: 66

	116
	114
	135
	107
	21
	0
	115
	47
	41

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	59	32	69	9.6	1.7	0.5
FEB	63	35	67	10.1	2.2	0.3
MAR	72	42	64	10.8	1.9	0
APR	79	49	67	10.4	2.6	0
MAY	85	58	72	9.5	4.8	0
JUN	91	66	70	9.1	3.7	0
JUL	95	70	65	8.3	2.0	0
AUG	96	69	64	7.9	2.1	0
SEP	91	63	68	7.9	3.3	0
OCT	82	50	67	8.1	3.4	0
NOV	72	42	68	9.0	2.4	0.1
DEC	62	35	68	9.1	1.9	0



Woodstock, VT

Rank: 184

Location: 43.37 N and 72.31 W at 705 feet, just west of the Connecticut River and New Hampshire line and 60 miles south of Montpelier.

Landscape: Low mountains. In the upper Connecticut River Valley with the Green Mountains rising to the west. Rivers cut through steep gorges, giving high relief to the winding valleys. The forests are transitional stands of mixed conifer and deciduous trees. Northern white pine, eastern hemlock, maple, oak, and beech are common.

Climate: Northerly latitude assures the variety and vigor of a true New England climate. The summer, while not long, is clear and warm. Fall is cool, extending through October. Winters are cold, with brief, intense cold snaps formed by high-pressure systems moving down from central Canada and Hudson Bay. Snows are deep and long lasting. First frost comes in late September; last frost delays leaving until mid-May. Spring is called breakup or mud season.

Summer mildness: 82

Seasonal affect: 13

Winter mildness: 14

Hazard free: 7

	91
	110
	164
	7
	167
	23
	50
	75
	20

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	28	7	58	9.0	2.5	20.9
FEB	33	10	57	9.4	2.4	20.6
MAR	43	21	53	9.9	2.7	16.9
APR	56	32	49	10.0	2.9	5.0
MAY	70	43	49	8.9	3.6	0
JUN	78	52	55	8.1	3.3	0
JUL	83	57	55	7.5	3.3	0
AUG	80	56	57	7.2	3.6	0
SEP	71	48	59	7.3	3.3	0
OCT	59	37	59	7.8	3.3	0
NOV	45	28	60	8.5	3.5	5.0
DEC	32	15	62	8.7	3.1	20.9

York Beaches, ME

Rank: 187

Location: 43.23 N and 70.32 W at 51 feet, on Maine's southern Atlantic Coast. Portland is 35 miles north, Boston, Massachusetts, is 60 miles south.

Landscape: Plains with high hills. Low hills drained by marsh and stream rise at the mouth of the York River on the Atlantic Ocean. Coastal watersheds include upstream areas, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, near-shore waters, and offshore habitats. Natural harbors, inlets, and sandy beaches mark the shore. Native vegetation is mixed evergreen of pine and spruce, with some maple and oak. The low-lying areas support typical marsh grasses and cattails.

Climate: Hot continental. Moderated somewhat by the ocean, winters can be cold, damp, and snowy. The first frost arrives October 15 and the last frost departs April 22. Spring arrives late. Summer days are clear and warm, the nights pleasantly cool. Fall is bright, mild, and long lasting.

Summer mildness: 76

Seasonal affect: 11

Winter mildness: 13

Hazard free: 15

	102
	99
	164
	6
	157
	14
	49
	76
	19

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	30	11	62	9.2	3.5	19.3
FEB	33	14	59	9.4	3.3	17.2
MAR	41	25	59	10.0	3.7	12.3
APR	52	34	57	10.0	4.1	2.0
MAY	63	43	57	9.2	3.6	0
JUN	73	52	60	8.2	3.4	0
JUL	79	58	60	7.6	3.1	0
AUG	77	57	60	7.5	2.9	0
SEP	69	49	60	7.8	3.1	0
OCT	59	38	60	8.4	3.9	0
NOV	47	30	62	8.8	5.2	3.0
DEC	35	18	62	9.0	4.6	14.9

★ Yuma, AZ

Rank: 7

Location: 32.43 N and 114.37 W at 137 feet, in the extreme southwestern corner of Arizona, 21 miles north of the Mexican border. The city is 150 miles midway between Phoenix to the east and San Diego to the west.

Landscape: Plains with low mountains. The land is typical desert steppe, with dry, sandy, and dusty soil. There's scant vegetation. Craggy buttes and mountains take their characteristic texture from wind erosion. The surrounding Trigo, Chocolate, Castle Dome, Mohawk, and Gila ranges are the dominant geologic feature.

Climate: Desert, with many places in the world receiving more rain in a year than has fallen here in the past century. There is a first frost by December 9 and a last frost by February 7. Home heating is necessary during the nights from late October to mid-April. Of all of America's First Order weather stations, the one here records the most sunny days.

Summer mildness: 20

Seasonal affect: 100

Winter mildness: 93

Hazard free: 97

	242
	75
	48
	178
	14
	0
	2
	11
	7

	High °F	Low °F	Hum %	Wind mph	Precip inches	Snow inches
JAN	69	44	40	7.3	0.4	0
FEB	74	47	35	7.4	0.2	0
MAR	79	51	30	7.9	0.2	0
APR	86	57	25	8.3	0.1	0
MAY	94	64	23	8.3	0.0	0
JUN	103	72	22	8.5	0.0	0
JUL	107	81	32	9.5	0.3	0
AUG	105	80	35	8.9	0.6	0
SEP	101	73	35	7.3	0.3	0
OCT	90	62	32	6.6	0.3	0
NOV	77	51	34	6.9	0.2	0
DEC	69	44	41	7.2	0.5	0



CLIMATE & HEALTH

A bogus fact sometimes getting into print has it that men get an extra 12 months of life and women an extra 18 simply by moving to Florida.

There is no proven link between longevity and climate. True, the three places with the highest portion of centenarians—the Caucasus Mountains, the mountains of Bolivia, and northwestern India—are in southern latitudes at high elevations. But in America, the longest average life spans are recorded in three states with northern latitudes, flat terrain, and severe winters—Minnesota, North Dakota, and Iowa.

People with specific chronic diseases are much more comfortable in some climates than in others. Asthmatics do best in warm, dry places that have a minimum of airborne allergens and no molds. People with rheumatism or arthritis find comfort in warm, moist southerly climates where the weather is constant and the atmospheric pressure swings least. Those suffering from tuberculosis or emphysema seem to do best in the lower elevations of mountains with lots of clear air and sunshine.

A small classic in bioclimatology is H.E. Landsberg's *Weather and Health*, which details the relationships between climate and the aggravation of physical afflictions. Drawing on this and other sources, *Retirement Places Rated* describes some basic weather phenomena and suggests how they can affect the way you feel.

Weather Stages: Beware of 3 & 4

The weather changes that cause the body to react have been studied by meteorologists and classified into six basic stages that make up the clear-stormy-clear cycle repeated all over the planet. The stages in the cycle are linked to some of the joys and tragedies of existence.

- **Stage 1.** Cool, high-pressure air, with few clouds and moderate winds, followed by . . .
- **Stage 2.** Perfectly clear, dry air, high pressure, and little wind, leading to . . .
- **Stage 3.** Considerable warming, steady or slightly falling pressure, and some high clouds, until . . .
- **Stage 4.** The warm, moist air gets into the lower layers; pressure falls, clouds thicken, precipitation is common, and the wind picks up speed; then . . .

- **Stage 5.** An abrupt change takes place; showery precipitation is accompanied by cold, gusty winds, rapidly rising pressure, and falling humidity as the moisture in the air is released.
- **Stage 6.** Gradually, the pressure rises still further and the clouds diminish; temperatures reach low levels and the humidity continues to drop, leading back to . . .
- **Stage 1.** Cool, high-pressure air . . .

Of course, these phases aren't equally long, either in any given sequence or in the course of a year. During winter, all six stages may follow one another within 3 days, whereas in the summer 2 weeks may pass before the cycle is completed.

The beautiful-weather stages 1 and 2 stimulate the body very little. They make no demands that can't be met by adequate clothing and shelter. In contrast, weather stages 4 and 5 are often violent. They stir us up mentally and physically.

There is no question weather stages affect the body. Hospital birth and death records prove it. In pregnancy, in far more cases than statistical accident permits, labor begins on days that are in weather stage 3. Heart attacks peak in weather stages 3 and 4 and drop in stages 1 and 6. Bleeding ulcers and migraines peak in stage 4.

Weather influences mood and conduct. There is a strong link between weather stage 3 and suicide, behavior problems in schoolchildren, and street riots. A study in Poland showed that accident rates in factory workers doubled during cyclonic weather conditions (stages 3 and 4: periods of falling pressure and rising temperatures and humidity signaling the onset of stormy weather) and returned to normal low levels in fair weather. Animals are affected, too. Dogcatchers are busiest during stages 3, 4, and 5 because dogs become restless, stray from their homes, and wander through the streets.

More about Comfort

As the six weather stages suggest, everyday comfort is influenced by three basic climatic factors: humidity, temperature, and barometric pressure.



Humidity. The amount of moisture in the air is closely related to air temperature in determining the comfort level of the atmosphere. Much of the discomfort and nervous tension experienced at the approach of stormy weather (weather stage 4) is the product of rising temperatures and humidity.

High levels of atmospheric moisture, such as those felt most of the time in the Pacific Northwest and along the Gulf Coast and South Atlantic Coast, aren't usually the cause of direct discomfort except in persons suffering from certain types of arthritis or rheumatism. But even in these cases, the mild temperatures found in these locations do much to offset discomfort. In fact, the stability of the barometric pressure in these areas makes them ideal for people with muscle and joint pain.

But damp air combined with low temperatures can be uncomfortable. Most people who live through damp winters, especially in places with high winds, complain that the cold, wet wind goes right through them. Moreover, the harmful effect of cold, damp air on pulmonary diseases has long been known. With this in mind, it's smart to think carefully about moving to New England coastal locations—Cape Cod and the

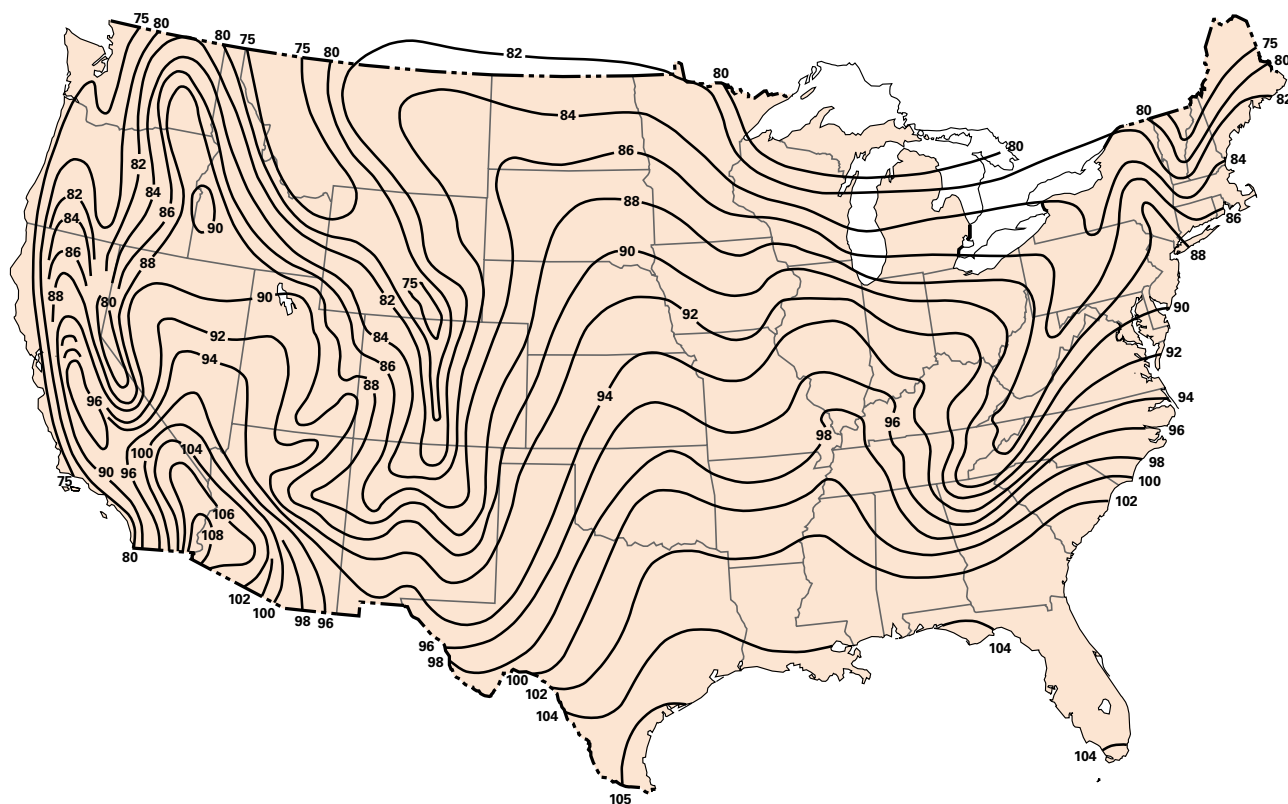
Maine coast, for example—where these conditions are winter trademarks.

Perhaps the most noticeable drawback to very moist air is the variety of organisms it supports. Bacteria and the spores of fungi and molds thrive in moist air but are almost absent in dry air. If the air is moist and also warm, the problem is multiplied. People susceptible to bacterial skin infections, fungal infections such as athlete's foot, or mold allergies should consider places with high humidities carefully.

On the other end of the spectrum, very dry air produces perceptible effects immediately and can cause discomfort within a day. When the relative humidity falls below 50 percent, most persons experience dry nasal passages and perhaps a dry, tickling throat. In the Desert Southwest, where the humidity can drop to 20 percent or less in some locations, many people experience nosebleeds, flaking skin, and constant sore throats.

Temperature. Some bioclimatologists maintain that the body is most comfortable and productive at "65-65," meaning an air temperature of 65°F with 65 percent humidity. High relative humidity intensifies the felt effect of high temperatures because it impairs the evaporative cooling effect of sweating.

APPARENT TEMPERATURES (JULY)





At apparent temperatures as low as 80°F to 90°F, a person may begin to suffer symptoms of heat stress. The degree of heat stress experienced will vary depending on age, health, and body characteristics. Infants, young children, and older adults are most likely to be affected by high temperature/humidity combinations.

The map “Apparent Temperatures (July)” shows how felt temperatures vary across the country. The places with the highest temperatures are in the southern half of the plateau between the Sierra Nevada to the west and the Rocky Mountains to the east, the Great Interior Valley of California, and parts of the high plains regions of New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. These areas are generally dry, so the effects of the high temperatures on the body are not particularly noticeable or damaging. This is especially true of locations west of eastern New Mexico.

States along the Gulf Coast and the South Atlantic Coast have temperatures that are less spectacularly high but humidity that can be oppressive. Most people would find a 90°F day in Savannah, Georgia, Daytona Beach, Florida, or Rockport–Aransas Pass, Texas, far more uncomfortable than they would a day of the same temperature in Silver City, New Mexico, or Yuma, Arizona.

What about cold temperatures? Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, older adults shunned cold weather in favor of the hot and sunny beach climates of the Sun Belt. Now, many are discovering the benefits of seasonal change and some cold weather, particularly around the holiday season.

But cold weather can have an adverse effect on persons with heart or circulatory ailments. These diseases follow a seasonal pattern, with a peak of deaths occurring in January and February. The cooling of the extremities places greater stress on the heart as it tries to maintain a safe body temperature. Breathing very cold air can tax the heart-lung system, and some persons who have hardening of the coronary arteries may get chest pains when outdoors in a cold wind.

Cold weather can also increase blood pressure with adverse consequences for those with circulatory problems. Although polar weather inhibits the survival of respiratory germs, these microbes thrive in a damp, cloudy, cool climate and contribute to a high incidence of influenza, bronchitis, and colds.

As the body gets older, its circulatory system gets less effective. Add to this another natural consequence of aging—the decreased rate of metabolism that keeps

the body warm—and you have explained older adults’ needs for higher household temperatures. The expense of heating costs in a cool climate, therefore, may offset the appeal of seasonal changes and winter weather.

But despite the dangers of heat or cold extremes, sudden wide shifts of temperature in either direction constitute a threat to health. When the weather—and especially the temperature—changes suddenly and dramatically, the rates of cardiac arrest, respiratory distress, stroke, and other medical emergencies skyrocket.

Sudden atmospheric cooling can bring on attacks of asthma, bronchitis, and stroke. Heart attacks and associated symptoms are more frequent following these periods. Often in autumn, changing air masses produce these attacks, particularly by the passage of a cold frontal system following a dropping barometer.

A sudden rise in the temperature may precipitate its own assortment of medical emergencies, among them heat stroke, heart attack, and stroke. Because the body recuperates during the night, the nighttime maximum air temperature is far more significant than the daytime maximum during a heat wave. A hot night prevents the body from reestablishing its thermal equilibrium and tends to lessen the amount of sleep a person gets, increasing fatigue. Hospital employees call these sudden temperature shifts, which cause so much discomfort and harm, “ambulance weather.”

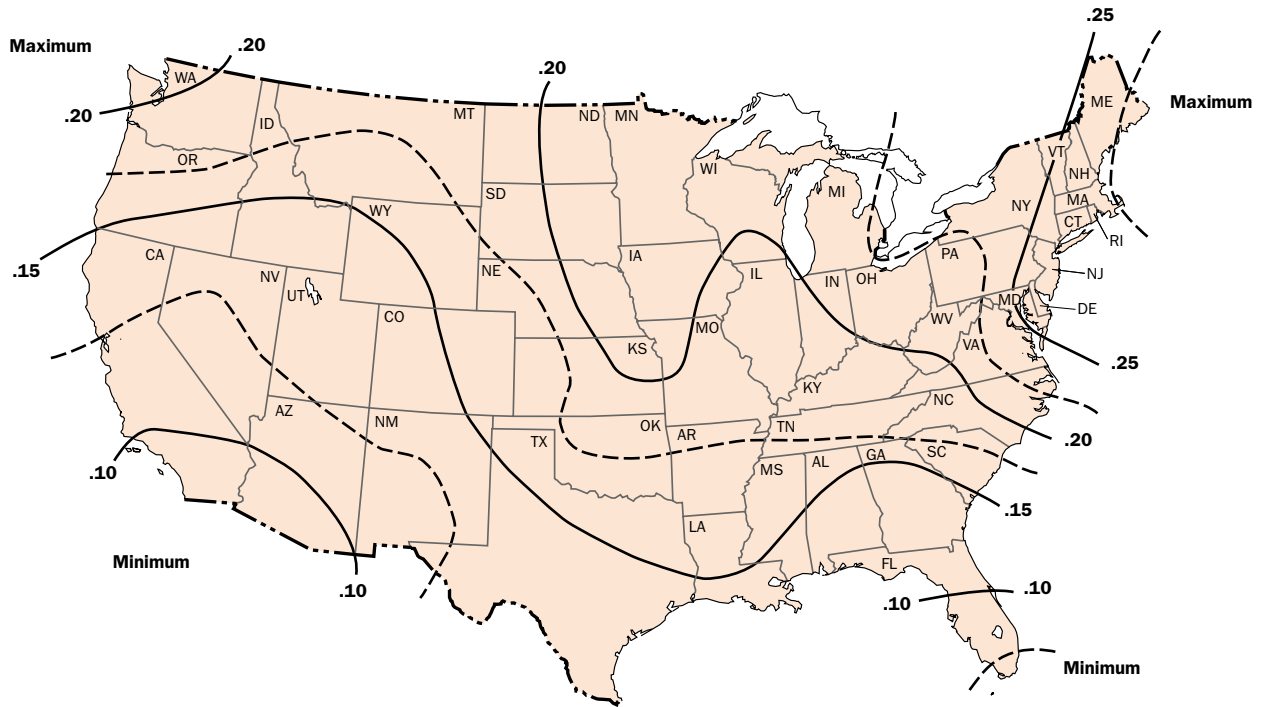
Barometric pressure. Though most people may be unaware of the source of their discomfort, barometric pressure and its wide and rapid fluctuations are powerful influences on performance, comfort, and health. Pressure changes are felt more keenly by older adults, whose bodies are generally more sensitive to change.

Recalling weather stage 4, the rapid fall of pressure that signals the arrival of storms and advancing cold fronts can trigger episodes of asthma, heart disease, stroke, and pain in the joints. People with rheumatism or arthritis may suffer unduly if they live in places where pressure changes are continual and rapid. The map “Pressure Changes from Day to Day (February)” shows the regions with greatest and least pressure changes during an average day in February, when joint pain and other discomforts reach their peak.

As the map shows, the northern and eastern sections of the country experience the biggest swings, averaging a barometric change of .20 inch to .25 inch from one day to the next. In summer, when pressure changes are relatively small, the average change in



PRESSURE CHANGES FROM DAY TO DAY (FEBRUARY)



these regions is approximately .10 inch. States in the southern latitudes, particularly Florida and Southern California, show the least change, only about .10 inch in February and less than .05 inch in summer. Of course, these figures are averages, and along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, large and rapid pressure changes are occasionally caused by hurricanes.

The map offers another reason why so many older adults choose Florida and the Gulf Coast. Additionally, due to the stabilizing and modifying effects that large bodies of water have on temperature and pressure, weather conditions by seacoasts are steadier than those of most inland, desert, or mountain locations.

Although the year-round climates found in Florida and the other Gulf states aren't as pleasant as they are hyped, subtropical climates—hot, humid, monotonous, and even wearying as they are to some—are just about perfect for people with severe rheumatoid joint pain or those who cannot tolerate sudden changes in the weather.

Questing for Relief

People with heart conditions should definitely avoid extreme heat and cold, rapid temperature variations, and wide and sudden pressure swings. This can rule

out most interior regions as well as northerly ones, even those on coastal locations.

Recommended are places that have warm, mild, and steady weather. Mountains and high altitudes should be avoided on two counts: less oxygen and strain caused by steep grades. Best bets are southerly coastal locations where sea level, oxygen-rich air, and stable pressures and temperatures predominate most of the year.

Look along the coast of the Mid-Atlantic Metro Belt southward all the way around the Florida peninsula and westward along the Gulf. Also look along the southern third of the Pacific coastline.

Emphysema brings a completely different set of problems and solutions. In general, excessive dampness combined with cool or cold weather is harmful. This eliminates the Pacific Northwest, New England, and the North Woods. Southerly coastal locations are better, but the air is perhaps still too damp. Seek out warm, sunny, and dry climates such as those found in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and the interior valleys of California. Remember to avoid high elevations.

Asthma is a complex disorder not completely understood. While it is believed to be an autoimmune disorder similar to allergies, it may be precipitated or worsened by different things in different individuals.



Your wisest course is to consult medical specialists first to determine the specific cause of your attacks. Asthmatics seem to do best in the pollen-free, dry, warm air found in the Desert Southwest. Because the air on the desert floor can be dusty, seeking a moderate altitude there may be beneficial.

Tuberculosis, recently considered a waning disease, is on the rise. It generally strikes people who have weakened resistance to infection, making older adults more susceptible than the rest of the population. Treatment is multifaceted, but an area that is mild, dry, sunny, and has clear air helps a great deal.

Mountain locations have always been popular and can provide relief if the altitude isn't excessive. Because dampness isn't recommended, the dry, sunny places in the southern Rockies are preferable to locations in the Southern Highlands. Ocean breezes are thought to be beneficial, too, and may be better for people who cannot tolerate the more rugged climate of the interior mountains. Hawaii or the Southern California coast are ideal.

For people with rheumatic pains and discomfort in amputated limbs or in old scar tissue, the warm and steady climates of the subtropics are perfect. Here the surrounding water keeps temperatures and pressures from shifting quickly, and the prevailing warmth is soothing. It would be hard to miss with any seafont location from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, south to the Florida Keys, around and up the west coast of the Florida peninsula, westward along the Gulf and down all the way to the mouth of the Rio Grande.

Life at the Top

Mountain resorts usually got their start as 19th-century health retreats when "night air" and "bad air" were seen as causes for chronic respiratory diseases. The antidote prescribed was "pine air" and a high altitude.

While mountain air tends to be clear and relatively free from pollutants, it also contains less oxygen. A rapid change to a high altitude is risky for people with heart diseases and arteriosclerosis. If you suffer from asthma, emphysema, or anemia, you should consult local physicians before moving to any place more than 2,000 feet above sea level. Even if all indications point to a positive reaction, it would be wise to take up residence for at least several months before making a permanent move.

Since altitude puts a certain amount of stress on the body's circulatory system and lungs, becoming acclimated to high places leads to good health. A higher altitude accelerates respiration and increases the lung capacity, strengthens the heart, increases the metabolic rate, and boosts the number and proportion of red blood cells.

In the United States, the highest town with a post office is Climax, Colorado. At 11,350 feet, Climax is beyond the comfort range of many older adults. Up here, a 3-minute egg takes 7 minutes to boil, corn on the cob needs to be on the fire 45 minutes, and home-brewed beer matures in half the expected time. Yet many of the 4,000 residents love it. The incidence of infection is amazingly low, and insects are practically unknown. In the East, the highest town of any size is Highlands, North Carolina, in the Great Smoky Mountains. Though less than half as high as Climax, Highlands and the neighboring towns offer the cool, clear air and invigorating climate that have long drawn people to the mountains.

MILE-HIGH PLACES

The 15 places below are all over 1 mile in elevation in the Rocky Mountains. In the East, the highest spot profiled in these pages is Boone–Blowing Rock, North Carolina. It sits up in the Blue Ridge Mountains at 3,266 feet.

PLACE ELEVATION

Fairplay, CO	10,010 feet
Silverthorne–Breckenridge, CO	9,602 feet
Pagosa Springs, CO	7,105 feet
Flagstaff, AZ	7,000 feet
Taos, NM	6,983 feet
Park City, UT	6,970 feet
Santa Fe, NM	6,947 feet
Ruidoso, NM	6,641 feet
Las Vegas, NM	6,600 feet
Durango, CO	6,523 feet
Jackson Hole, WY	6,234 feet
Cortez, CO	6,201 feet
Driggs, ID	6,116 feet
Bozeman, MT	5,950 feet
Silver City, NM	5,851 feet

Retirement Places Average **1,556 feet**

Source: U.S. Geological Survey



NATURAL HAZARDS

Risk management firms whose clients include the insurance industry now rate areas as small as a zip code for the damage from future hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes. These natural hazards follow definite geographic patterns, and some places are at greater risk than others.

The Sun Belt Is Also a Storm Belt

Most severe storms occur in the southern half of the nation. For this reason, you might say the Sun Belt is also a storm belt.

Thunderstorms & Lightning. Thunderstorms are common and don't usually cause death. But lightning, the most common natural danger, kills 200 Americans a year. At any given moment there are about 2,000 thunderstorms in progress around the globe. In the time it takes you to read this paragraph, lightning will have struck 700 times.

Florida, the Sunshine State, is actually the country's stormiest state, with three times as much thunder and lightning as any other. California, Oregon, and Washington are the three most storm-free states. In a typical year, coastal California locations average between 2 and 5 thunderstorm episodes. Most American locations average between 35 and 50. Florida's Gulf Coast averages 90.

Tables in the "Place Profiles: Climate" section earlier in this chapter tell how many thunderstorm days on average each place can expect in a year. The southeastern quadrant of our country generally receives more rain and thunderstorms than the rest, although the thunderstorms of the Great Plains are awesome spectacles.

Tornadoes. While they aren't nearly as large or long-lived as hurricanes and release much less force, tornadoes have more killing power concentrated in a small area than any other storm. For absolute ferocity and wind speed, a tornado hasn't a rival.

The hallmark of this vicious inland storm is the huge funnel cloud that sweeps and bounces along the ground, destroying buildings, sweeping up cars, trains, livestock, and trees, and sucking them up hundreds of feet into the whirling vortex. Wind speeds close to 300 miles per hour have been recorded.

FLORIDA'S STORMY COAST

The minimum requirement for the recording of a thunderstorm is the presence of a single storm cell. On a bad day in summer, locations on Florida's west coast can record three or four in a single afternoon.

PLACE	STORMS PER YEAR
Bradenton, FL	93
Fort Myers–Cape Coral, FL	93
Naples, FL	93
Port Charlotte, FL	93
Largo, FL	86
Sarasota, FL	86
Thomasville, GA	83
Kissimmee–St. Cloud, FL	82
Lakeland–Winter Haven, FL	82
Leesburg–Mount Dora, FL	82
Ocala, FL	82
Sebring–Avon Park, FL	82
Gainesville, FL	81
Melbourne–Palm Bay, FL	77
Port St. Lucie, FL	75
200 Retirement Places Average	36

Source: NOAA, local climatological data. Some of the above figures come from the nearest "First Order" station.

Although no one can tell for certain just where particular tornadoes might touch down, their season, origin, and direction of travel are predictable using decades of records. Tornado season reaches its peak in late spring and early summer. After forming in the intense heat and rising air of the plains, these storms proceed toward the northeast at speeds averaging 25 to 40 miles per hour. Most tornadoes do not last long or travel far. Half of all tornadoes reported travel less than 5 miles on the ground; a rare few have been tracked for more than 200 miles.

Nearly one-third of all twisters ever reported in the United States touched down somewhere in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Indeed, Tornado Alley is an area 150 miles on either side of a line drawn from Abilene, Texas, to Omaha, Nebraska. Among retirement spots, the lake locations in Oklahoma and Missouri, any location in Texas or Arkansas, and even spots in Kentucky and Tennessee have a high potential for tornado damage and danger.



Hurricanes. Along Louisiana's and Mississippi's Gulf coasts, the plain is so low that a serious storm surge in front of a hurricane will flood escape routes 80 miles inland. In the months following Katrina's devastation, safety officials recommended at least a 3-day evacuation window even if forecasters couldn't accurately plot a hurricane's track and strength.

Giant tropical cyclonic storms that start at sea, hurricanes are unmatched for sheer power over a very large area. They last for days, measure hundreds of miles across, and release tremendous energy in the form of high winds, torrential rains, lightning, and tidal surges. They usually occur in late summer and fall, and strike the Gulf States and southern segments of the Atlantic Coast. Like thunderstorms, hurricanes are much less frequent and less severe on the Pacific Coast.

Hurricanes usually originate in the tropical waters of the Atlantic Ocean. They occur toward summer's end because it takes that long for the water temperature and evaporation rate to rise sufficiently to begin the cyclonic, counterclockwise rotation of a wind system around a low-pressure system. When the winds are less than 39 miles per hour, the cyclone

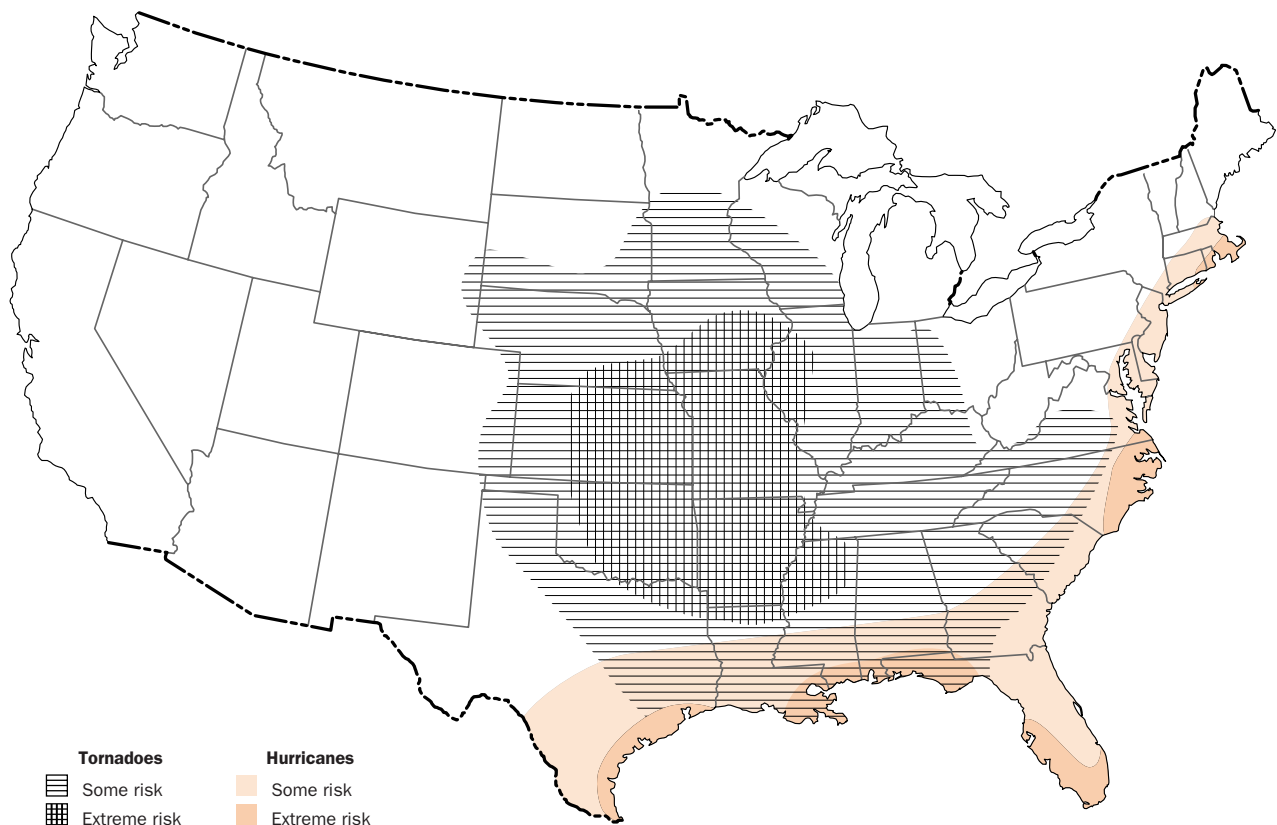
becomes a tropical depression. When winds speed up to between 39 and 74 miles per hour, the depression becomes a tropical storm. When the winds top 74 miles per hour, the storm becomes a hurricane.

Often the greatest danger and destruction from hurricanes aren't winds but tidal surges that sweep ashore with seas 15 feet or more higher than normal high tides. Although Florida and the southern coasts are most vulnerable to hurricanes, low-lying locations as far north as Cape Cod and the Maine coast aren't invulnerable. The map "Tornado & Hurricane Risk Areas" shows the nation's danger areas for these natural hazards.

Earthquake Risks

California and the Pacific Northwest may be relatively free of the thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes that buffet other parts of the country. But these states are in the area most prone to earthquake damage. A glance at the map "Earthquake Hazard Zones," which predicts not only the probability of earthquakes but also their severity, confirms this.

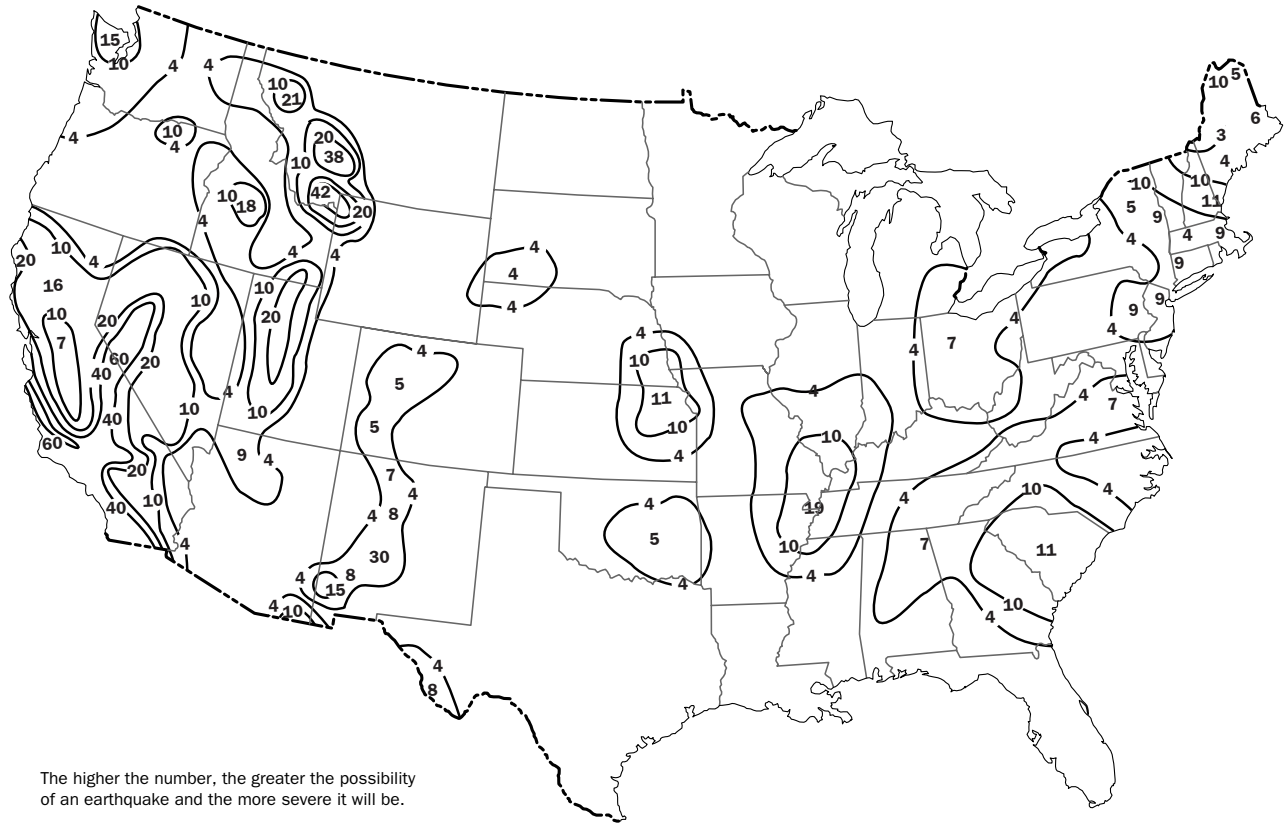
TORNADO & HURRICANE RISK AREAS





EARTHQUAKE HAZARD ZONES

Retirement Places Rated



The higher the number, the greater the possibility of an earthquake and the more severe it will be.

All retirement places in California, Nevada, and Utah have the potential for substantial earthquake damage. Locations in Oregon are relatively safe, but the Puget Sound area of Washington has experienced three major shocks in the past 35 years. Portions of Montana and Idaho also are vulnerable.

Other pockets of earthquake risk may surprise you. In New Mexico, Albuquerque is situated in a danger area, and so is Silver City. The resorts on the South Carolina and Georgia coasts sit in the middle of a quake-sensitive zone that was the site of the 1886 Charleston quake, the strongest ever measured east of the Mississippi. The entire New England region shares a danger roughly comparable to this area. Boston has suffered a severe quake and remains prone today. A series of quakes occurred in southeastern Missouri in 1811 and 1812, changing the course of the Mississippi River and creating a major lake. There is still some risk in this area, which includes retirement places in western Kentucky and Tennessee and part of the Ozarks.

Can Anyone Win?

After studying the maps, you may come to the dismal conclusion that you cannot win: Where one natural disaster area stops, another begins. Some areas, like the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia, appear to possess a triple-whammy combination of earthquake, tornado, and hurricane hazards.

Studying the map more closely, you might begin to detect retirement areas that seem safer than others. One such area is the Pacific Northwest, with the exception of the significant earthquake risk around Puget Sound. Parts of Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico, too, are relatively free from disaster risk. The southern Appalachians, despite a moderate earthquake risk, do not experience many storms due to the protection of the mountains. But some parts of that region are flood-prone. And moderate earthquake risk seems almost unavoidable anywhere but the frigid north-central plains or the steamy, tornado-ridden flatlands of Texas and the Gulf states.



So, as with most things in life, when it comes to avoiding natural disasters, you can only pay your money and take your chances.

HAY FEVER SUFFERERS, TAKE NOTE

It does not come from hay nor does it cause a fever, but that's little consolation to the 18 million Americans afflicted. Hay fever is an allergic reaction of the eyes, nose, or throat to certain airborne particles. These particles may be pollen from seed-bearing trees, grasses, and weeds, or spores from certain molds. The term originated in Britain when people assumed its fever-like symptoms had something to do with the fall haying.

Most persons might think that once they're into adulthood, they already know whether they have hay fever. But if you move, would you suddenly develop a baffling runny nose and minor sore throat? Allergy problems aren't always alleviated by relocation, and sometimes a new allergen, absent where you used to live, can turn up to cause you problems.

In the Arctic, because of low temperature, poor soil, and small and primitive vegetation, nobody suffers

from it. In the tropics and subtropics, because the plants are generally flowered and produce pollen so heavy it cannot become airborne, few complain of it.

Live in a temperate region and you'll find irritating pollen. The best market for over-the-counter antihistamines in America is the heartland, where grasses and trees without flowers predominate. Farming disrupts the soil here, encouraging the growth of weeds (especially the most devilish of them all, ragweed). It extends from the Rockies to the Appalachian chain, and from the Canadian border down to the mid-South.

Alas, nowhere in this country except Alaska and the southern half of Florida will you entirely escape. It's simply a question of degree. Some places that were once havens for asthmatics and hay fever sufferers aren't any longer. Examples include many of the fast-growing areas of the Desert Southwest. In the 1950s, Tucson was virtually free of ragweed pollen. Its desert location prevented the growth of weeds, grasses, and trees that cause hay fever. As more and more people moved into the area, more trees were planted and lawns seeded. The result? A pollen index that's still good but not nearly as good as it used to be.

