



## Maximum July Temperatures

Just as the ocean cools more slowly than the air in winter, it also warms more slowly than the air in the summer. This means coastal areas, where air is coming in off of the ocean, tend to have mild summer temperatures. Ocean **fog** can occur anywhere along the coast but is most common in the redwood region of Northern California where ocean **currents** are particularly cold. Fog occurs when cold ocean water chills the layer of air just above it, causing tiny droplets of moisture to form into dense clouds. Cooler summer temperatures are common in the thinner **atmosphere** of the highest mountains of the state, such as the Sierra Nevada.

Far away from the cooling effect of the ocean, inland valleys and the southeastern **deserts** have the hottest summer temperatures. The absence of moisture in the atmosphere allows the sun's rays to heat the land and the air close to the ground. Death Valley is one of the warmest spots on Earth, with summer temperatures in this interior location often above 120° F.

