

## Minimum January Temperatures

Mountains are the coldest [purple areas] places during winter because the thinner air does not retain heat from the sun. From December through April, snow blankets the **landscape**, lakes freeze, and most birds and animals either **migrate** elsewhere or hibernate. There is little human activity except for winter sports. Two things keep the Great Central Valley cool in winter: cold air flowing down from the mountains and ground **fog**.

The coastline, southeastern **deserts**, and many inland valleys are much warmer [green areas] because more dense air at low **elevations** retains the heat in the same way a thick sweater holds in more heat than a thin one. In addition, when Pacific Ocean water is warmer than the nearby land surface, the area near the coastline also warms up.

