

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ALERT AND THE REALLY FAR NORTH, NUNAVUK TERRITORY

LOCATION: Alert is the northernmost year-around settlement on earth, at a latitude of 82°30' north. It is a weather station and military establishment located on the northeastern tip of Ellesmere Island, facing on the Arctic Ocean. Access is restricted, and is by air only. Elevations range from sea level to just under 6,000feet above it in the glaciated peaks behind the settlement. The settlement is surrounded by the Ellesmere Island National Park Preserve, accessible by charter aircraft and open to the public. Most of the interior is covered by ice cap.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	0:00	0:03	10:36	23:02	24:00	24:00	24:00	24:00	17:05	3:11	0:00	0:00
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:00	0:00	2:12	12:34	13:23	10:17	9:24	7:41	3:03	0:09	0:00	0:00
AREA OF CLEAR SKY	56%	56%	50%	48%	36%	29%	24%	19%	20%	32%	51%	60%
LOW FOR MONTH	-44°	-47°	-46°	-36°	-9°	15°	28°	18°	-9°	-24°	-35°	-41°
LOW FOR 24-HOUR DAY	-33°	-35°	-34°	-20°	5°	26°	33°	29°	9°	-10°	-22°	-28°
HIGH FOR 24-HOUR DAY	-19°	-21°	-20°	-5°	16°	35°	43°	38°	21°	3°	-9°	-14°
HIGH FOR MONTH	3°	3°	0°	14°	32°	49°	57°	53°	35°	19°	12°	8°
DAYS WITH FROST	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	84%	44%	72%	100%	100%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
LOWEST HUMIDITY FOR DAY	71%	68%	65%	67%	76%	82%	81%	83%	83%	78%	74%	71%
DRY DAYS	74%	76%	77%	78%	76%	78%	72%	69%	60%	69%	73%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	98%	98%	96%	96%	94%	90%	88%	87%	93%	96%	98%
DRY HOURS	64%	68%	70%	74%	70%	79%	81%	80%	68%	66%	58%	64%
LIKELY SNOWFALL	3.2"	2.3"	2.9"	3.5"	4.9"	4.4"	5.4"	7.8"	12.7"	6.8"	3.7"	3.2"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	26%	24%	23%	22%	24%	22%	21%	28%	40%	31%	27%	26%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	5%	6%	5%	4%	18%	20%	19%	24%	19%	9%	8%	4%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 39% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of no sunshine at all (and no daylight) from early October through the end of February, to a high of 56% in May—before the summer cloud-cover sets in. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -50° (colder inland), and the highest should be near 59°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones—cold and raw. Daylight is virtually continuous (if you count twilight) from late March through late September. The ground will be snow-covered continuously from early September through late June, and intermittently throughout the brief “summer”. In point of fact, more snow falls during the summer months than during the winter, because the air is moister. On the ice-cap, it is perpetual winter—despite the summer sun.