

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO MURMANSK AND RUSSIAN LAPPLAND, RUSSIA

LOCATION: Murmansk, Russia's only ice-free port on the world-ocean, is located in extreme northwestern Russia, a short bus-ride from the Finnish border. The town is situated at the head of the estuary of the Kola River, on the Barents Sea coast of the Kola Peninsula. The natural landscape is one of scattered boreal forest and tundra. Elevations are close to sea level. An eddy from what once was the Gulf Stream keeps it ice-free the year around.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	2:09	7:25	11:37	15:55	21:29	24:00	23:27	17:56	13:27	9:16	4:33	0:04
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:04	1:10	3:55	6:25	6:16	7:54	7:37	4:50	2:42	1:27	0:10	0:00
AREA OF BLUE SKY	30%	31%	32%	29%	24%	26%	29%	25%	22%	23%	24%	27%
LOW FOR MONTH	-17°	-13°	-7°	10°	24°	32°	40°	37°	30°	14°	-1°	-11°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	7°	9°	16°	25°	34°	43°	49°	47°	40°	30°	20°	11°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	17°	18°	25°	35°	45°	55°	61°	57°	48°	36°	28°	20°
HIGH FOR MONTH	36°	35°	38°	48°	63°	75°	78°	73°	61°	48°	41°	36°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	98%	95%	82%	38%	4%	0%	0%	11%	61%	90%	99%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	84%	81%	73%	64%	62%	61%	63%	68%	72%	80%	85%	85%
NEARBY WATERS	39°	35°	35°	36°	37°	41°	45°	48°	46°	43°	40°	39°
DRY DAYS	35%	44%	47%	51%	57%	52%	53%	46%	46%	41%	37%	37%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	70%	75%	77%	79%	78%	70%	71%	68%	68%	68%	68%	70%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.17	0.31	0.37	0.42	0.32	0.24	0.22	0.18
LIKELY SNOWFALL	7.2"	6.0"	5.1"	5.2"	5.1"	3.1"	0.1"	0.4"	1.3"	7.2"	10.1"	9.6"
SNOWY DAYS	50%	47%	40%	35%	21%	8%	0%	1%	4%	29%	48%	53%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	4%	8%	3%	3%	5%	8%	15%	16%	11%	9%	6%

COMMENTS: The region has a marine version of the sub-polar climate. The same relatively warm waters that keep the port ice-free also keep it from getting as cold in the winter (and as hot in the summer) as places farther inland. Located north of the Arctic Circle, Murmansk gets continuous daylight (if you count twilight) from late April through early August. Summer skies are generally cloudy, and frequently overcast. During midwinter, the sun does disappear below the true horizon for almost a month, the twilight never completely disappears under clear skies. They are not clear often, so it might as well be completely dark. Local lakes and streams freeze up in late October, and don't "break-up" until early May. The ground is usually snow-covered during that time, and winter sports are popular during the brief days.