

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE, ALASKA

LOCATION: The Arctic National Wildlife Range is located in northeastern Alaska, between the Brooks Range and the Beaufort Sea (Arctic Ocean). There are no significant permanent settlements in the Range. The service center for the area is the town of Kaktovik just offshore on Barter Island. Table data are essentially for that island and the Arctic Coast region. Elevations everywhere are close to sea level, and the land is flat, marshy, and lake-covered tundra and muskeg until you reach the lower slopes of the Brooks Range, 65 miles to the south.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	1:19	7:03	11:35	16:12	22:16	24:00	23:53	18:29	13:32	9:04	3:32	0:00
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:11	3:00	5:29	9:15	5:16	7:27	6:03	3:36	2:07	1:49	0:25	0:00
AREA OF CLEAR SKY	48%	48%	51%	43%	21%	23%	25%	16%	17%	20%	34%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	-41°	-45°	-39°	-30°	-2°	23°	29°	28°	16°	-10°	-27°	-38°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-20°	-26°	-22°	-9°	15°	30°	35°	34°	28°	10°	-6°	-18°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	-8°	-14°	-9°	7°	26°	38°	45°	44°	35°	20°	5°	-6°
HIGH FOR MONTH	19°	13°	14°	27°	40°	54°	63°	60°	50°	35°	24°	19°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	29%	35%	83%	100%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	67%	67%	73%	84%	86%	86%	88%	87%	83%	75%	70%
DRY DAYS	83%	83%	84%	81%	80%	81%	73%	63%	67%	60%	75%	82%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	98%	98%	99%	98%	94%	90%	90%	92%	94%	97%	98%
TOTAL PRECIPITATION	0.5"	0.2"	0.2"	0.2"	0.3"	0.5"	1.0"	1.1"	0.8"	0.8"	0.4"	0.3"
LIKELY SNOWFALL	4.6"	2.5"	2.6"	2.4"	2.9"	1.6"	0.7"	1.5"	5.6"	9.5"	5.1"	3.4"
SNOWY DAYS	17%	17%	17%	20%	19%	8%	2%	7%	20%	39%	26%	19%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	10%	10%	8%	11%	25%	37%	48%	50%	37%	14%	12%	7%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 26% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of no sunshine at all during the long Arctic night, to a high of 57% in April. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -48°, and the highest should be near 65°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. Daylight is continuous from the middle of May through the end of July, and is entirely absent from late November through January. The sea usually freezes over sometime in October, and the sea-ice breaks up sometime in June. Since this sea ice never entirely disappears, water temperatures are continually close to the melting point of sea ice. The Brooks Range will be colder and wetter. The south slope of the mountains will be colder in winter and warmer in summer.