

# SUNSHINE GUIDE TO POINT BARROW AND THE ARCTIC TUNDRA, ALASKA

LOCATION: Point Barrow is the most northerly point of land in continental Alaska. The town of Barrow is the northernmost settlement in the United States. It is located in extreme northern Alaska. This town of more than 4,000 citizens (mostly Inuit) is situated on a flat treeless peninsula protruding into the Arctic Ocean. South of the peninsula, more-or-less level tundra stretches for two-hundred miles. Elevations are everywhere close to sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	0:40	6:37	11:33	16:32	22:56	24:00	24:00	19:17	13:39	8:51	2:38	0:00
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:11	3:12	6:01	9:09	11:02	11:55	8:59	6:37	4:04	2:41	0:38	0:00
AREA OF CLEAR SKY	57%	50%	55%	47%	19%	20%	22%	11%	8%	16%	40%	54%
LOW FOR MONTH	-40°	-42°	-38°	-26°	-3°	21°	28°	27°	17°	-9°	-23°	-35°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-21°	-24°	-21°	-8°	14°	29°	33°	33°	27°	10°	-7°	-17°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	-8°	-12°	-9°	6°	24°	38°	45°	43°	34°	20°	4°	-5°
HIGH FOR MONTH	18°	12°	12°	26°	36°	54°	64°	61°	47°	34°	25°	19°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	80%	46%	49%	85%	100%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	69%	66%	67%	74%	83%	85%	84%	86%	87%	84%	77%	71%
DRY DAYS	85%	83%	87%	85%	85%	83%	71%	64%	63%	62%	79%	83%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	97%	92%	89%	95%	97%	99%	99%
TOTAL PRECIPITATION	0.2"	0.2"	0.1"	0.2"	0.1"	0.3"	0.9"	1.0"	0.6"	0.5"	0.3"	0.2"
LIKELY SNOWFALL	2.1"	2.1"	1.8"	2.2"	1.8"	0.6"	0.4"	0.7"	3.6"	6.6"	3.4"	2.4"
SNOWY DAYS	18%	19%	15%	18%	18%	6%	3%	7%	28%	41%	24%	19%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	10%	9%	8%	11%	21%	28%	30%	30%	18%	13%	11%	8%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 40% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of no sunshine at all during the long polar night, to a high of 55% in April. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -46°, and the highest should be near 66°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. From the middle of November until late in January, the sun remains continually below the horizon. There is some twilight, especially near the beginning and end of this dark period, but the night is continuous. Conversely, from early May through early August the sun is continually above the horizon, and daylight is continuous. The Arctic Ocean near Barrow is usually ice-covered from sometime in September until "breakup" in late July or early August. This breakup is usually celebrated by traditional Inuit whale hunts. The sea is never completely ice-free, so water temperatures hover near the freezing point wherever open water exists.