

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO NOME AND THE SEWARD PENINSULA, ALASKA

LOCATION: Nome is located in the northwestern quarter of Alaska. The city is situated on the shores of the Seward Peninsula, facing Norton Sound. Elevations are generally within a hundred feet of sea level. The area is well north of the "tree line", and the local vegetation is essentially an open tundra. Attractions include the Iditerod Trail National Sled Dog Race in March, and the Midnight Sun Festival in June.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	5:22	8:25	11:42	15:05	18:32	21:10	19:55	16:33	13:10	9:50	6:32	4:14
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:12	4:27	6:25	7:57	9:18	9:26	7:13	5:09	4:38	3:27	2:11	1:26
AREA OF BLUE SKY	39%	44%	43%	37%	34%	33%	23%	20%	25%	30%	33%	37%
LOW FOR MONTH	-27°	-28°	-25°	-9°	12°	30°	35°	33°	24°	8°	-10°	-24°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-2°	-4°	-1°	11°	29°	39°	45°	44°	36°	23°	10°	-1°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	13°	13°	17°	26°	42°	53°	57°	56°	48°	34°	22°	14°
HIGH FOR MONTH	33°	33°	33°	42°	58°	71°	69°	66°	57°	49°	36°	33°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	97%	62%	12%	0%	4%	33%	83%	97%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	74%	71%	70%	74%	73%	74%	79%	79%	74%	72%	76%	74%
NEARBY WATERS	28°	29°	28°	28°	29°	39°	50°	53°	49°	39°	29°	28°
DRY DAYS	66%	69%	69%	70%	74%	70%	57%	46%	52%	65%	63%	67%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	92%	93%	94%	94%	94%	90%	83%	75%	77%	87%	89%	92%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.10	0.19	0.38	0.53	0.44	0.23	0.17	0.14
LIKELY SNOWFALL	9.1"	6.4"	6.9"	6.8"	2.2"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	4.6"	10.8"	9.0"
SNOWY DAYS	35%	29%	31%	30%	13%	1%	0%	0%	2%	20%	40%	34%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	7%	5%	5%	5%	10%	13%	11%	5%	1%	1%	4%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely to occur on 42% of the year's daylight hours. This will probably range from a low of 34% in November and December, to a high of 55% in March. The expected lowest temperature for the year will be around -33° on some windless winter night, and the most probable highest will be near 74° on some sunny summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will generally be very close to actual ones. The flat, marshy areas around town are underlain at a depth of two to three feet by "permafrost", or permanently-frozen subsoil. The upper surface of this permafrost may thaw somewhat on occasion, but it never completely melts. Therefore, it keeps ground water from percolating to any depth. Its existence is due to past glaciation and the fact that the ground usually remains frozen all the way to the surface from the middle of November through the end of April.