

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BIRMINGHAM METROPOLITAN AREA, ALABAMA

LOCATION: Birmingham, Alabama's largest city, is located in the north-central part of that state. The city was originally situated in the Jones Valley at the junction of two railroads. By chance, it happened to be close to one of the nation's largest deposits of iron ore, and became the south's major industrial city as a result. Elevations are around 600 feet above sea level. Oak Mountain State Park offers a scenic drive, lakes, waterfalls, and a campground.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:13	10:58	11:58	13:00	13:53	14:21	14:09	13:24	12:25	11:23	10:28	9:59
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:29	5:29	6:44	8:11	9:10	9:35	8:37	8:37	8:02	7:39	6:01	4:28
AREA OF BLUE SKY	35%	39%	40%	46%	45%	45%	40%	45%	49%	57%	49%	38%
LOW FOR MONTH	16°	19°	25°	34°	44°	56°	62°	60°	50°	35°	25°	19°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	35°	37°	43°	51°	59°	67°	70°	69°	64°	52°	42°	36°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	54°	57°	66°	74°	81°	88°	90°	90°	85°	75°	64°	56°
HIGH FOR MONTH	72°	75°	81°	86°	91°	96°	97°	97°	94°	87°	79°	72°
FROSTY MORNINGS	42%	34%	15%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	18%	37%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	41%	55%	53%	27%	2%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	56%	51%	46%	44%	49%	52%	56%	54%	53%	48%	50%	55%
DRY DAYS	64%	62%	65%	68%	70%	67%	59%	66%	75%	80%	72%	65%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	76%	75%	75%	79%	79%	79%	73%	81%	83%	87%	79%	78%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.80	0.87	0.97	0.78	0.69	0.65	0.85	0.65	0.61	0.44	0.65	0.80
SNOWY DAYS	10%	7%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%
THUNDER DAYS	4%	8%	14%	17%	22%	33%	41%	32%	17%	5%	5%	4%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	3%	4%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely to occur on 59% of the year's daylight hours. This will probably range from a low of 44% in January, to a high of 67% in both June and October. The expected lowest temperature for the year will be around 12° on some windless winter sunrise during a "polar outbreak", and the most probable highest will be near 99° on some sunny summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will generally be close to actual ones, except in mid-summer. In that season, they will be a few degrees hotter than actual ones. Snow flurries are common during the winter months, but snow on the ground is rare, and generally melts by noon of the next day. The city will often have a distinct "urban heat island" effect. Under windless and rainless conditions (or near), the city center will be many degrees warmer than the outlying suburbs. This is especially noticeable at night and in the winter. Precipitation of any kind diminishes this effect, and a strong wind will eliminate it completely.