

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO RUSSELL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT, ALABAMA

LOCATION: Russell Cave National Monument is located in extreme northeastern Alabama, not too far from the Tennessee border. The Monument is situated in the Cumberland Plateau country, at an elevation of about 800 feet above sea level. Chattanooga, Tennessee, lies about thirty miles to the northeast, and Huntsville, Alabama, lies about fifty mile to the southwest. This is a large cave system that was inhabited by prehistoric peoples as early as 9,000 years ago. There is a visitor center with displays and nature trails. Neither meals nor overnight accommodations are available. It's one of the little-known and little-visited segments of our National Park System.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 10:06 | 10:54 | 11:57 | 13:03 | 13:59 | 14:28 | 14:16 | 13:29 | 12:26 | 11:21 | 10:23 | 9:52 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 4:16 | 5:15 | 6:09 | 7:53 | 8:59 | 9:03 | 8:49 | 8:23 | 8:02 | 7:10 | 5:31 | 4:17 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 35% | 37% | 39% | 43% | 44% | 45% | 42% | 45% | 49% | 54% | 46% | 36% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 12° | 16° | 23° | 32° | 42° | 53° | 60° | 59° | 48° | 33° | 22° | 16° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 33° | 35° | 41° | 50° | 58° | 66° | 69° | 69° | 63° | 51° | 40° | 34° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 50° | 53° | 61° | 71° | 79° | 86° | 88° | 88° | 83° | 72° | 60° | 51° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 68° | 72° | 79° | 87° | 91° | 96° | 97° | 96° | 94° | 85° | 77° | 69° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 55% | 48% | 22% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 25% | 49% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 6% | 27% | 44% | 38% | 14% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 61% | 56% | 53% | 48% | 52% | 54% | 57% | 56% | 55% | 51% | 55% | 61% |
| DRY DAYS | 60% | 61% | 61% | 67% | 66% | 63% | 61% | 66% | 72% | 78% | 70% | 64% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 75% | 74% | 74% | 78% | 77% | 79% | 76% | 80% | 81% | 84% | 78% | 76% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.83 | 0.88 | 0.95 | 0.78 | 0.66 | 0.67 | 0.71 | 0.61 | 0.57 | 0.48 | 0.64 | 0.82 |
| LIKELY SNOWFALL | 2.0" | 1.5" | 0.5" | 0.1" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.2" | 0.9" |
| SNOWY DAYS | 6% | 5% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 2% |
| THUNDER DAYS | 4% | 7% | 12% | 16% | 24% | 33% | 36% | 32% | 15% | 5% | 5% | 2% |
| FOGGY DAYS | 10% | 6% | 4% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 5% | 6% | 9% | 14% | 12% | 9% |

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely to occur on 57% of the year's daylight hours. This will probably range from a low of 42% in January, to a high of 65% in September. The expected lowest temperature for the year will be around 8° on some windless winter sunrise, 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 a few degrees warmer than actual ones during the heat of summer, and a few degrees cooler during the middle of winter. Spring and autumn are probably the best times for a visit. Check with Park Service personnel for good places to stay and eat nearby.