

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE TENNESSEE VALLEY LAKES RECREATION AREA, ALABAMA

LOCATION: The Tennessee Valley Lakes are located in extreme northwestern Alabama. The lakes are all impoundments on the Tennessee River, and stretch downstream from the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge to the Mississippi and Tennessee borders. In sequence, the lakes are (from east to west and going downstream) Wheeler Lake, Wilson Lake, and Pickwick Lake. The area also includes Wheeler State Park and that section of the Natchez Trace National Parkway that cuts across the northwest corner of Alabama. Elevations are somewhat above 500 feet above sea level. The lakes are extremely popular for a variety of water-based activities, including hunting and fishing.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:02	10:52	11:57	13:05	14:03	14:33	14:20	13:31	12:27	11:19	10:20	9:48
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:21	5:26	6:26	8:08	9:16	9:43	9:06	8:50	8:00	7:23	5:38	4:26
AREA OF BLUE SKY	33%	36%	36%	42%	41%	44%	41%	45%	46%	53%	43%	35%
LOW FOR MONTH	12°	10°	23°	37°	45°	54°	60°	58°	49°	36°	24°	17°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	32°	33°	41°	50°	58°	66°	69°	68°	63°	50°	39°	34°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	51°	54°	63°	73°	81°	89°	91°	90°	85°	74°	62°	52°
HIGH FOR MONTH	66°	69°	78°	85°	91°	98°	100°	99°	96°	87°	75°	65°
FROSTY MORNINGS	61%	50%	22%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	26%	51%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	36%	57%	51%	21%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	57%	53%	50%	45%	49%	51%	55%	54%	54%	48%	52%	57%
DRY DAYS	68%	68%	68%	72%	71%	68%	69%	73%	80%	82%	77%	69%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	75%	74%	77%	80%	80%	78%	83%	82%	86%	79%	77%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.81	0.83	0.97	0.78	0.67	0.66	0.72	0.59	0.51	0.43	0.59	0.78
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	5%	8%	14%	16%	23%	27%	32%	25%	14%	6%	7%	4%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	10%	7%	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	7%	6%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 59% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 43% in January, to a high of 67% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 8°, and the highest should be near 101°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the colder weather, and a couple of degrees warmer than actual ones during the hotter weather. The area has a standard four-season year, with long hot summers and short cool winters. Snow flurries and light falls are common enough during the winter, but the ground rarely freezes for more than a day or two at a time and snow on the ground past noon of the next day is rare. More of the year's rain falls during the winter months than during the summer ones, and the winter rains last longer than the typical summer thundershower. Autumn is the driest season, and October has the year's most pleasant weather.