

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE, FLORIDA

LOCATION: Gulf Islands National Seashore is located on the Gulf of Mexico in extreme western Florida. It extends west into Mississippi, skipping Alabama. This summary only deals with the Florida unit of the Seashore. This unit consists of a series of barrier islands, portions of the mainland, and many square miles of shoals and waters stretching all the way east from Perdido Key on the Alabama border, across Pensacola Bay, to the Okaloosa site southeast of Fort Walton Beach. Elevations are everywhere close to sea level. Park Headquarters is at the Visitor Center in the Naval Live Oaks section on Gulf Breeze Island south of Pensacola. Individual camping is available at the Fort Pickens site on Santa Rosa Island. There are also group sites there and in the Naval Live Oaks section. Other facilities exist on Perdido Key, Opal Beach, Fort Barrancas (surrounded by the Pensacola Naval Air Station), and Okaloosa. All of these sites are accessible by road.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:26	11:06	11:59	12:54	13:41	14:05	13:55	13:15	12:23	11:28	10:40	10:14
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:40	6:19	7:28	8:58	9:59	10:02	9:00	9:03	8:21	8:35	6:53	5:21
AREA OF BLUE SKY	42%	44%	46%	51%	53%	49%	42%	45%	51%	60%	54%	43%
LOW FOR MONTH	25°	28°	34°	44°	54°	64°	70°	68°	59°	43°	33°	26°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	46°	48°	53°	60°	68°	74°	78°	76°	72°	63°	52°	46°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	61°	63°	67°	74°	82°	88°	89°	89°	86°	79°	69°	63°
HIGH FOR MONTH	73°	73°	78°	83°	90°	94°	96°	95°	92°	87°	80°	75°
FROSTY MORNINGS	11%	11%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	8%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	29%	43%	49%	19%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	62%	61%	61%	61%	61%	62%	65%	66%	63%	56%	59%	62%
NEARBY WATERS	66°	63°	65°	69°	76°	82°	84°	85°	84°	79°	73°	70°
DRY DAYS	69%	68%	70%	78%	78%	71%	60%	61%	69%	82%	76%	70%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	81%	78%	81%	86%	85%	80%	72%	75%	77%	88%	85%	83%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.62	0.82	0.92	0.72	0.56	0.83	1.12	0.94	1.30	0.60	0.56	0.61
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	6%	10%	13%	12%	18%	32%	49%	45%	24%	7%	7%	6%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	16%	16%	16%	10%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	9%	12%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 65% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 52% in December, to a high of 73% in sunny May. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 20° at some chilly winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 98° on some sultry summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be substantially higher than actual ones from the middle of June through the middle of September. The official hurricane season runs from June through November, with mid-June through mid-October being more realistic. The Seashore portion in Florida has one chance in seven on experiencing a hurricane in any given year. This becomes one chance in 200 for any given week of the likely season.