

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO STANLEY AND SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, IDAHO

LOCATION: Stanley is located at the intersection of ID-75 and ID-21 in the Sawtooth Mountains of south-central Idaho. The town is situated in the valley of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, at an elevation of some 6,300 feet above sea level. It is almost surrounded by the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, whose elevations range up to 11,815 feet at the summit of Castle Peak. Chief activities are ranching and tourism.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:17	10:26	11:54	13:26	14:45	15:28	15:10	14:02	12:34	11:03	9:41	8:57
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:42	5:16	7:20	8:56	10:18	11:37	12:54	11:41	9:59	7:34	4:21	3:27
AREA OF BLUE SKY	25%	29%	34%	38%	44%	54%	70%	69%	64%	52%	34%	27%
LOW FOR MONTH	-34°	-31°	-13°	2°	13°	21°	24°	19°	8°	0°	-11°	-30°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	0°	2°	9°	20°	28°	33°	36°	34°	27°	21°	12°	1°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	27°	33°	41°	48°	59°	67°	78°	77°	68°	56°	40°	28°
HIGH FOR MONTH	47°	54°	60°	66°	78°	84°	91°	91°	87°	77°	60°	49°
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	99%	98%	94%	76%	47%	31%	47%	78%	93%	97%	98%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	60%	47%	37%	34%	30%	22%	23%	29%	40%	58%	71%
DRY DAYS	72%	73%	79%	81%	76%	78%	88%	87%	83%	83%	73%	76%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	86%	85%	90%	90%	88%	88%	94%	94%	91%	91%	85%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.27	0.25	0.18	0.18	0.20	0.20	0.10	0.11	0.15	0.16	0.26	0.25
LIKELY SNOWFALL	18.9"	14.4"	11.0"	5.2"	1.1"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.5"	2.3"	10.9"	15.9"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	28%	27%	21%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	19%	24%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	1%	2%	4%	10%	11%	12%	11%	7%	2%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	16%	10%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	8%	16%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 64% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 39% in December, to a high of 85% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 0° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 93° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 5° cooler than actual ones from May through October, and pretty much the same as actual ones the rest of the year. The ground is usually frozen and snow-covered from the middle of October through late April. During this time, about half the days remain below freezing all day long, and a similar number of nights drop below zero. No month is frost-free. Winds tend to blow strongly down the slopes at night, and rather weakly up the slopes during the daylight hours. Passing storm systems can easily override both of these local winds. Elevation and--to a lesser degree--slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets, and therefore in its soil temperature and moisture content.