

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE, INDIANA

LOCATION: Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is located along the shores of Lake Michigan in extreme northwestern Indiana. Some 15,000 acres of federal land surround several thousand additional acres of State Parks along the shoreline from east of Gary to southwest of Michigan City. Elevations are around 600 feet above sea level. The area offers excellent beaches, wooded sand dunes, nature trails, exhibits, resorts, and rentals of every description. It is an extremely popular family-oriented weekend and holiday destination.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:33	10:35	11:55	13:19	14:31	15:09	14:53	13:52	12:32	11:08	9:54	9:14
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:41	3:46	5:22	7:08	8:52	10:05	10:19	9:19	7:33	5:48	3:17	2:25
AREA OF BLUE SKY	18%	22%	26%	32%	38%	40%	45%	44%	42%	38%	22%	18%
LOW FOR MONTH	-2°	2°	14°	25°	36°	45°	51°	51°	43°	33°	16°	3°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	17°	21°	29°	39°	49°	59°	64°	63°	56°	46°	34°	23°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	32°	35°	44°	58°	70°	80°	83°	82°	76°	65°	49°	37°
HIGH FOR MONTH	50°	53°	63°	75°	83°	91°	94°	91°	89°	78°	66°	52°
FROSTY MORNINGS	92%	89%	71%	21%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	47%	83%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	17%	18%	16%	7%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	61%	60%	54%	51%	47%	51%	54%	53%	53%	54%	58%	62%
NEARBY WATERS	39°	39°	37°	38°	40°	48°	63°	75°	64°	55°	46°	47°
DRY DAYS	60%	62%	58%	52%	58%	66%	69%	71%	72%	69%	70%	68%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	84%	84%	79%	72%	77%	78%	79%	81%	83%	82%	83%	84%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.33	0.32	0.46	0.63	0.51	0.64	0.66	0.54	0.54	0.49	0.38	0.38
LIKELY SNOWFALL	13.1"	10.8"	7.2"	1.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	3.6"	11.5"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	40%	38%	25%	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	19%	32%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	1%	7%	14%	15%	24%	22%	20%	15%	6%	3%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	7%	6%	6%	6%	9%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 50% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 26% in cloudy December, to a high of 69% in sunny July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -4°, and the highest should be near 95°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. During the heat of summer, cool lake breezes keep even the highest temperatures quite bearable. These same breezes tend to delay all of the seasons somewhat over locations farther inland. Early-season visitors tend to concentrate on hiking, climbing the dunes, and resort activities other than swimming. On the other hand, the September waters are still fairly pleasant for hardy souls.