

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE WEST YELLOWSTONE AREA, MONTANA

LOCATION: The resort community of West Yellowstone is located in southwestern Montana on the western border of Yellowstone National Park. The town is situated in the valley of the Madison River, in a country side dominated by mountain parkland. Here, stands of pine are interspersed with groves of aspen on the mountain slopes, with natural meadows along the valley bottoms. West Yellowstone's elevations is around 6,700 feet, with nearby mountains rising to more than 10,000 feet.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:15	10:25	11:54	13:27	14:48	15:31	15:13	14:04	12:35	11:02	9:39	8:54
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:39	5:18	6:35	7:42	8:22	9:45	11:16	10:05	8:11	6:17	4:16	3:22
AREA OF BLUE SKY	30%	34%	34%	37%	36%	44%	58%	57%	50%	45%	34%	30%
LOW FOR MONTH	-30°	-32°	-18°	-4°	14°	26°	29°	23°	10°	0°	-14°	-29°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-1°	2°	7°	19°	28°	34°	39°	36°	29°	21°	9°	2°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	24°	31°	38°	48°	56°	68°	79°	77°	66°	53°	36°	26°
HIGH FOR MONTH	36°	44°	53°	64°	72°	80°	88°	86°	79°	68°	52°	41°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	97%	74%	30%	10%	19%	68%	94%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	64%	55%	48%	44%	40%	35%	37%	43%	51%	61%	68%
DRY DAYS	58%	64%	68%	70%	68%	67%	74%	74%	77%	77%	73%	68%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	76%	80%	82%	83%	79%	75%	87%	85%	87%	85%	78%	76%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.36	0.30	0.28	0.24	0.33	0.40	0.22	0.22	0.23	0.24	0.30	0.34
LIKELY SNOWFALL	31.4"	22.2"	22.0"	9.6"	3.7"	0.9"	0.0"	0.1"	1.3"	6.8"	18.6"	26.7"
SNOWY DAYS	42%	36%	32%	20%	6%	1%	0%	0%	2%	10%	27%	32%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	1%	13%	26%	34%	31%	12%	1%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	3%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 56% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 38% in December, to a high of 74% in XXXXX. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -50°, and the highest should be near 93°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones—or a bit lower on hotter days. The ground is usually frozen and snow-covered from early September through the middle of June, and snow may lurk in shaded places for weeks after that. Below-freezing temperatures can occur on any day of the year--no month is free of them. The same thing is true of snowfalls and snow flurries. They can occur at anytime. During the long winter nights, cold-air drainage down the slopes can make the valley bottoms significantly colder than higher up the slopes. Also, the *chinook*, a downslope wind, can raise temperatures many degrees in a matter of hours.