

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

LOCATION: Mount Washington, the highest point both the White Mountains and in New Hampshire, is located in the north-central part of that state. The summit reaches 6,288 feet above sea level, and may be reached by a cog-railway and by hiking trails.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:17	10:26	11:54	13:26	14:46	15:28	15:10	14:02	12:35	11:03	9:41	8:57
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:59	3:33	4:04	4:45	5:22	4:59	4:45	4:24	4:25	4:15	2:49	2:42
AREA OF BLUE SKY	22%	23%	23%	23%	22%	19%	18%	20%	24%	28%	19%	20%
LOW FOR MONTH	-30°	-27°	-18°	-3°	11°	24°	32°	29°	18°	7°	-7°	-24°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-3°	-3°	5°	16°	29°	38°	43°	42°	35°	25°	14°	1°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	14°	14°	20°	29°	41°	50°	54°	53°	46°	37°	27°	17°
HIGH FOR MONTH	35°	34°	39°	46°	57°	63°	65°	64°	60°	53°	45°	37°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	99%	93%	63%	22%	5%	10%	40%	74%	93%	99%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	83%	82%	85%	85%	82%	85%	87%	87%	86%	82%	85%	85%
DRY DAYS	37%	36%	38%	40%	45%	47%	47%	49%	49%	50%	35%	34%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	57%	57%	58%	59%	62%	59%	61%	62%	62%	64%	53%	55%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.11	1.28	1.24	1.19	1.09	1.19	1.10	1.26	1.21	1.11	1.47	1.32
LIKELY SNOWFALL	41.9"	42.3"	44.6"	32.9"	10.8"	1.1"	0.0"	0.2"	2.0"	12.0"	32.6"	45.1"
SNOWY DAYS	61%	62%	56%	46%	21%	4%	0%	1%	7%	25%	49%	61%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	3%	6%	11%	14%	9%	3%	2%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	86%	89%	88%	83%	78%	85%	89%	90%	87%	83%	90%	89%

COMMENTS: The summit is above timberline and has an alpine climate with frequent severe weather. Visitors will routinely encounter winds in excess of 100 miles per hour and poor visibility. The highest wind speed ever recorded on the earth's surface was experienced here—231 miles per hour. Below-freezing temperatures can and do occur in every month, and blizzard conditions can be encountered any time from late September through early June. Many climbers and casual day hikes have lost their lives on the mountain due to abrupt changes in the weather--particularly in the visibility (fog and cloud), icy footing, and the wind chill. Month in and month out, you can expect sunshine on only a third of the daylight hours. Temperatures in a normal year will range from close to -40°F to the middle 60's. In even the most pleasant months, measurable rain (or snow--or both) will fall on more than half the days. Exposed surfaces are quickly coated with inches of rime (ice that freezes directly from moist air on exposed surfaces), and virtually every year gets more than twenty feet of snow. This is a mountain for experienced and well-equipped hikers in excellent physical condition only.