

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK (NORTH), TENNESSEE

LOCATION: Great Smoky Mountain National Park straddles the Tennessee-North Carolina border in southeastern Tennessee and northwestern North Carolina. The Park is situated in the Great Smoky Mountains, part of the Appalachian Mountain chain. Elevations in the Park range from 840 feet above sea level at the western tip of the Park to 6,643 feet at the summit of Clingman's Dome, near the middle of the Park. This is the most visited national park in the United States, and can be quite crowded from Memorial Day to Labor Day, during the spring rhododendron bloom, and during the fall color show. This Guide focuses on the northern (Tennessee) slopes of the Park, and is relevant to the Gatlinburg resort area.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:03	10:53	11:57	13:05	14:02	14:32	14:19	13:31	12:27	11:20	10:20	9:49
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:40	5:35	6:42	8:10	8:58	9:23	8:50	8:02	7:35	7:07	5:38	4:29
AREA OF BLUE SKY	36%	39%	40%	44%	43%	44%	41%	43%	47%	54%	45%	38%
LOW FOR MONTH	10°	12°	21°	30°	39°	50°	57°	56°	45°	31°	21°	13°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	29°	31°	37°	46°	54°	62°	65°	64°	59°	47°	37°	31°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	48°	50°	59°	68°	77°	83°	86°	85°	80°	70°	58°	49°
HIGH FOR MONTH	66°	69°	77°	84°	87°	92°	93°	92°	90°	82°	74°	68°
FROSTY MORNINGS	63%	58%	32%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	34%	59%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	12%	23%	17%	6%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	55%	51%	48%	54%	57%	59%	60%	58%	53%	55%	59%
DRY DAYS	62%	62%	60%	64%	63%	62%	60%	63%	72%	76%	70%	65%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	78%	75%	74%	80%	77%	77%	75%	79%	82%	84%	80%	79%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.60	0.67	0.72	0.61	0.56	0.65	0.70	0.62	0.48	0.43	0.46	0.60
LIKELY SNOWFALL	3.4"	3.3"	2.0"	0.3"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.5"	1.9"
SNOWY DAYS	8%	7%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	4%	9%	12%	21%	29%	32%	27%	12%	3%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	8%	6%	5%	4%	9%	13%	15%	23%	21%	17%	10%	9%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 58% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 46% in December and January, to a high of 65% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 5°, and the highest should be near 95°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. Table data are representative of the 1,800-foot level on the northern slopes. You can expect afternoon temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300' increase in elevation—making the summits some ten to twenty degrees cooler than the table elevation. The summits will also be a bit cloudier and substantially wetter.