

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE MOUNT ROGERS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, VIRGINIA

LOCATION: The Mount Rogers National Recreation Area is located in southwestern Virginia, right up against the border with North Carolina. The Recreation Area is situated in the Iron Mountains, one of the ranges of the Appalachian Mountain system. Elevations range up to 5,729 feet above sea level at the summit of Mount Rogers itself. There is a Visitor Center on VA-16, near Troutdale. The Park Headquarters is in Marion. This summary is characteristic of conditions on the north slope at the 3,000-foot level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:58	10:50	11:57	13:07	14:07	14:38	14:25	13:34	12:28	11:18	10:16	9:43
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:17	4:59	5:58	7:05	8:28	8:47	8:22	7:28	7:21	6:53	5:20	4:05
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	38%	40%	42%	44%	43%	42%	42%	50%	57%	49%	40%
LOW FOR MONTH	6°	10°	15°	26°	35°	44°	49°	48°	39°	27°	17°	10°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	24°	25°	32°	40°	48°	56°	58°	59°	53°	41°	32°	26°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	43°	45°	55°	64°	73°	79°	82°	82°	77°	66°	54°	45°
HIGH FOR MONTH	61°	63°	71°	79°	83°	88°	89°	88°	86°	79°	69°	62°
FROSTY MORNINGS	79%	77%	60%	27%	5%	0%	0%	0%	3%	23%	58%	77%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	8%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	56%	54%	49%	46%	52%	55%	57%	58%	57%	52%	54%	57%
DRY DAYS	66%	66%	63%	65%	61%	60%	58%	62%	72%	76%	72%	70%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	81%	79%	74%	80%	76%	77%	74%	77%	83%	84%	83%	82%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.46	0.51	0.56	0.50	0.58	0.62	0.68	0.62	0.52	0.43	0.38	0.43
LIKELY SNOWFALL	9.0"	8.3"	3.8"	1.3"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	2.3"	6.5"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	26%	27%	12%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	9%	18%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	2%	5%	11%	20%	25%	30%	22%	10%	3%	2%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	11%	11%	9%	6%	8%	9%	10%	12%	14%	9%	9%	9%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 53% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 42% in December, to a high of 61% in October. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 3°, and the highest should be near 90°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. The area has a distinct four-season year. Summer afternoons are warm to hot, rarely very hot. Mornings in the summer are clearer than afternoons, as cloud cover thickens as the day warms. These clouds often culminate in local thunderstorms. Summer has the fewest truly clear days, less than one in five. Autumn has roughly two clear days out of five. Expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300' increase in elevation. The summits will also be a bit cloudier and considerably wetter. During the cooler months, snow depth and snowfall frequency increases with altitude.