

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, VIRGINIA

LOCATION: Shenandoah National Park is located in the western part of northern Virginia. The Park is situated along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and extends some eighty miles from south of Front Royal in the north, to north of Waynesboro in the south. The Park is from two to thirteen miles wide, and traversed throughout its length by the Skyline Drive. Elevations are generally over 2,000 feet, reaching 4,010 feet high at the summit of Stony Man Mountain.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:49	10:44	11:56	13:11	14:15	14:49	14:35	13:41	12:29	11:14	10:08	9:33
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:16	5:04	6:06	7:09	8:18	9:02	8:43	7:58	7:18	6:24	4:55	4:09
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	32%	33%	35%	35%	37%	36%	38%	40%	44%	36%	33%
LOW FOR MONTH	-7°	-3°	8°	19°	29°	38°	44°	43°	34°	22°	12°	0°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	20°	20°	26°	37°	46°	54°	58°	56°	50°	41°	30°	22°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	35°	36°	43°	55°	64°	70°	73°	72°	66°	57°	46°	36°
HIGH FOR MONTH	57°	59°	70°	77°	79°	82°	84°	83°	80°	73°	67°	60°
FROSTY MORNINGS	86%	87%	74%	34%	6%	0%	0%	0%	3%	17%	57%	78%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	56%	52%	49%	54%	57%	59%	60%	60%	53%	56%	60%
DRY DAYS	74%	70%	68%	64%	63%	67%	65%	63%	72%	74%	73%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	81%	77%	75%	74%	75%	76%	77%	73%	80%	83%	81%	82%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.51	0.53	0.66	0.65	0.71	0.72	0.69	0.91	0.81	0.80	0.66	0.55
LIKELY SNOWFALL	10.0"	9.2"	10.2"	1.8"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	3.9"	7.7"
SNOWY DAYS	39%	31%	28%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	22%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	2%	5%	12%	20%	25%	31%	25%	11%	4%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	9%	10%	7%	7%	14%	22%	26%	34%	31%	20%	11%	9%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 54% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 43% in December and January, to a high of 61% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -11°, and the highest should be near 85°. Sensible summer afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. The Park has an upland version of the standard mid-latitude four-season year. Summers are short and cool, while winters are long and cold. Only July and August have never recorded below-freezing temperatures. Spring offers an abundance of wild flowers, while autumn puts on a dazzling color show. Snow is common during the winter months, although most of the winter precipitation comes as rain. Snow depth and frequency vary with elevation, and are also quite variable from one year to another. At Big Meadows, you can expect better than forty inches of snow in a normal year. During the average winter, the ground is snow-covered about a third of the time. Chains are occasionally required for winter travel on the Skyline Drive.