

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO HOT SPRINGS RESORT AREA, VIRGINIA

LOCATION: The resort community of Hot Springs is located in the Allegheny Mountains of west-central Virginia, about twenty-five miles northeast of Covington. The town is situated in a narrow valley, surrounded by forested mountains. The resort, based on a number of hot mineral springs, dates back to 1766, but Native Americans had been using the area for medicinal purposes for eons. The Homestead, the most noted of the area's resorts, is a full-featured four-season establishment. The snow-sport season runs from November through March. Elevations in the valley are about 2,200 feet above sea level, with the mountains rising almost two-thousand feet higher.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:52	10:46	11:56	13:10	14:13	14:46	14:32	13:39	12:29	11:15	10:11	9:36
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:10	4:56	5:58	7:04	8:06	8:31	8:32	7:45	7:10	6:33	5:00	4:03
AREA OF BLUE SKY	32%	34%	35%	37%	37%	37%	39%	40%	43%	48%	40%	35%
LOW FOR MONTH	4°	5°	13°	27°	36°	45°	49°	49°	41°	29°	19°	0°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	22°	23°	30°	38°	47°	55°	59°	58°	52°	41°	31°	24°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	41°	44°	52°	63°	73°	79°	81°	80°	74°	64°	52°	43°
HIGH FOR MONTH	56°	59°	67°	75°	81°	85°	88°	86°	82°	72°	63°	56°
FROSTY MORNINGS	84%	82%	65%	30%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	19%	57%	79%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	58%	54%	50%	46%	52%	55%	57%	58%	58%	52%	54%	58%
DRY DAYS	68%	68%	65%	65%	61%	60%	62%	66%	72%	78%	74%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	80%	80%	77%	78%	77%	75%	76%	78%	82%	85%	83%	83%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.54	0.60	0.69	0.66	0.66	0.54	0.51	0.44	0.48
LIKELY SNOWFALL	6.9"	5.9"	3.6"	1.5"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	1.3"	4.5"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	23%	23%	11%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	15%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	1%	4%	8%	14%	19%	23%	16%	7%	2%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	13%	15%	13%	13%	17%	21%	25%	29%	25%	15%	13%	13%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 53% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 42% in December and January, to a high of 59% in July. The valley bottom is shaded by the mountains. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -2°, and the highest should be near 90°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. Snowfall figures are for the valley floor. The nearby slopes should get more, get it earlier, and keep it later. They will also be significantly cooler and a bit wetter. Elevation and—to a lesser degree—slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation—and *vice versa* going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets, its temperature, and its humidity.