

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE GAULEY RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, WEST VIRGINIA

LOCATION: The Gauley River National Recreation Area is located in the Appalachian Mountains of southwestern West Virginia. The NRA stretches some 25 miles down the Gauley River from Summersville Dam, covering some eighteen square miles of riverbank. Elevations on the river range from about 1,900 feet above sea level down to about 900 feet. The river contains many Class V+ rapids, and is one of the most challenging in the eastern part of the country. Much of the land in the area is privately-owned, and the only public access is at the campground below the dam. The campground is primitive—no water and no flush toilets. This river is strictly for experienced river-runners, and can be quite dangerous.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:50	10:45	11:56	13:11	14:14	14:47	14:34	13:40	12:29	11:15	10:09	9:34
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:19	4:03	5:12	6:34	8:06	8:52	8:16	7:29	6:53	5:47	4:06	3:13
AREA OF BLUE SKY	21%	24%	26%	30%	32%	33%	33%	35%	37%	39%	28%	24%
LOW FOR MONTH	-5°	-2°	9°	21°	32°	42°	49°	47°	38°	26°	16°	6°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	20°	21°	29°	37°	47°	55°	60°	58°	52°	40°	32°	24°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	39°	42°	51°	62°	71°	78°	81°	80°	74°	64°	53°	43°
HIGH FOR MONTH	57°	61°	72°	79°	81°	85°	88°	86°	82°	75°	68°	57°
FROSTY MORNINGS	82%	81%	61%	30%	5%	1%	0%	0%	2%	23%	55%	75%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	64%	60%	54%	49%	52%	56%	60%	60%	58%	53%	57%	63%
DRY DAYS	57%	59%	60%	61%	64%	65%	66%	69%	73%	75%	68%	62%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	78%	76%	77%	77%	77%	74%	78%	82%	84%	81%	79%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.59	0.54	0.63	0.63	0.77	0.74	0.89	0.76	0.60	0.53	0.55	0.56
LIKELY SNOWFALL	13.5"	12.5"	7.0"	3.0"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.6"	4.6"	10.3"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	16%	17%	7%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	11%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	1%	3%	7%	12%	21%	28%	32%	23%	11%	3%	2%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	10%	8%	7%	7%	19%	32%	40%	52%	49%	33%	12%	9%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 48% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 34% in December and January, to a high of 60% in June. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -7° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 90° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. From December through February, about one day in four will remain below freezing all day long. Three or four nights each winter will drop below freezing. Snowfall is highly variable from place to place and year to year. Summer weather is fairly stable, but spring and fall are seasons of transition, with rapid changes in weather. Water temperatures average about 50°F—a bit higher in the summer and quite a bit colder in the winter.