

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

LOCATION: Yellowstone National Park takes in portions of three states, but the bulk of it occupies the northwestern corner of Wyoming, spilling over into Montana and Idaho. Elevations within the Park vary from 5,314 where the Yellowstone River leaves the Park to some 11,358 feet at the summit of Eagle Peak. The table data describe the area around Park Headquarters, the Mammoth Hot Springs area. This is the warmest and driest part of the Park, and the only part that is accessible all year around. Its elevations is about 6,250 feet above sea level. Everyplace else is colder and wetter, some appreciably so.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:13	10:23	11:54	13:28	14:50	15:33	15:15	14:05	12:35	11:01	9:37	8:52
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:36	5:18	6:32	7:41	8:18	9:48	11:08	10:00	8:11	6:17	4:20	3:22
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	36%	36%	39%	37%	46%	57%	57%	51%	46%	36%	32%
LOW FOR MONTH	-17°	-13°	-7°	9°	22°	30°	36°	34°	24°	14°	-2°	-11°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	9°	11°	16°	26°	34°	41°	46°	45°	37°	29°	20°	13°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	27°	32°	38°	49°	59°	68°	78°	77°	66°	54°	39°	30°
HIGH FOR MONTH	42°	45°	53°	65°	75°	83°	88°	87°	81°	71°	54°	43°
FROSTY MORNINGS	99%	99%	95%	79%	43%	10%	1%	1%	23%	65%	91%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	65%	57%	50%	45%	40%	36%	39%	45%	53%	61%	68%
DRY DAYS	58%	61%	61%	67%	59%	59%	69%	72%	75%	72%	65%	61%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	86%	89%	85%	85%	82%	79%	87%	87%	87%	89%	90%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.24	0.20	0.23	0.21	0.30	0.33	0.20	0.20	0.22	0.20	0.20	0.20
LIKELY SNOWFALL	17.9"	13.1"	15.1"	7.5"	3.2"	0.5"	0.0"	0.0"	1.4"	5.6"	10.6"	14.8"
SNOWY DAYS	48%	43%	42%	30%	16%	3%	1%	1%	7%	19%	33%	42%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	1%	13%	27%	35%	32%	13%	1%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 56% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 38% in December, to a high of 73% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -24°, and the highest should be near 89°. Sensible summer afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones. Below-freezing temperatures can and do occur on any day of the year. Snow often lingers in shady areas in the campgrounds will into late June or early July. One of the characteristic sounds of the Park campgrounds in the summer is the starting and running of vehicle engines hours before sunrise. The cars don't go anywhere, the campers are simply trying to thaw their chilled bodies. Most facilities and roads are closed from the first Sunday in November through May the first. Heavy snows in the autumn and spring can force earlier closings and later openings.