

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO IRKUTSK AND LAKE BAIKAL, RUSSIA

LOCATION: Irkutsk is located in south-central Russia. The city is situated on the Angara River, just downstream from its source in Lake Baykal. The Irkutsk Dam is just upstream from the city. Elevations are around 1,500 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:18	9:53	11:50	13:53	15:42	16:42	16:17	14:42	12:44	10:42	8:52	7:49
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:11	4:58	6:38	7:17	7:33	8:08	7:45	7:09	6:02	4:45	3:05	2:01
AREA OF BLUE SKY	43%	49%	46%	38%	31%	33%	31%	35%	38%	38%	33%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	-37°	-30°	-19°	2°	21°	31°	38°	36°	22°	1°	-17°	-33°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-12°	-10°	4°	22°	35°	45°	51°	48°	36°	23°	5°	-8°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	6°	13°	28°	43°	59°	69°	72°	69°	58°	43°	23°	8°
HIGH FOR MONTH	23°	29°	46°	63°	81°	86°	86°	83°	75°	63°	43°	30°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	91%	37%	5%	0%	1%	33%	86%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	62%	47%	43%	40%	37%	44%	55%	58%	53%	51%	58%	64%
DRY DAYS	63%	67%	76%	74%	64%	60%	53%	52%	60%	67%	59%	55%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	89%	92%	93%	90%	82%	76%	72%	73%	79%	88%	87%	88%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.11	0.08	0.07	0.11	0.21	0.46	0.60	0.54	0.29	0.13	0.13	0.12
SNOWY DAYS	34%	30%	23%	20%	11%	1%	0%	0%	6%	23%	36%	40%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	12%	21%	12%	2%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	44%	31%	13%	2%	2%	9%	17%	20%	22%	15%	29%	51%

COMMENTS: The region has a classic continental climate. It will usually get almost 90° each summer, and usually get below -40° every winter. Precipitation is light, and is concentrated in the summer months. Summer afternoons are characteristically long, moderately sunny, moderately humid, and mild to warm. Summer nights are cool, often chilly. Much of the summer rain comes as thundershowers. Winter afternoons are short, cloudy early in the winter and sunny in late winter, quite dry, and very very cold. Even the warmest winter afternoons remain below freezing. Winter nights can get extremely cold, and three-fourths of them will drop below zero. Winter can be lethal for those who are either unprepared or foolhardy. Almost all the winter precipitation that falls falls as snow, but not much falls. The ground usually remains frozen and snow-covered from late October through early April. Because of Lake Baykal's great depth, it does not freeze over until sometime in January. It then normally will not break up until sometime in May. The water near the outlet into the Angara River, however, normally remains ice-free even longer because of strong currents flowing into the river. This open water is the source of most of the winter fogs of the Irkutsk area.