

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE HOUGHTON & HIGGINS LAKES RESORT AREA, MICHIGAN

LOCATION: This popular resort area is located in the north-central portion of Michigan's lower peninsula. The two lakes are the largest inland lakes in the state, and are part of the drainage basin of the Muskegon River. The area's short growing season and sandy soils offer little encouragement to agriculture, but the sandy soils produce mile after mile of superb beaches around the perimeter of the lakes. The area supports hundreds of square miles of forest land, mostly under state administration. It also supports numerous resorts, summer camps, vacation homes, and year-around residences. The communities of Houghton Lake and Grayling provide services. Elevations are around 1,100 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:16	10:26	11:54	13:26	14:46	15:29	15:11	14:03	12:35	11:03	9:41	8:56
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:48	4:15	5:42	6:37	8:34	9:47	9:54	8:30	6:26	4:29	2:23	2:22
AREA OF BLUE SKY	20%	26%	30%	32%	37%	41%	45%	43%	38%	31%	19%	20%
LOW FOR MONTH	-14°	-17°	-7°	14°	28°	36°	41°	39°	30°	23°	10°	-5°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	11°	10°	18°	31°	41°	51°	55°	54°	47°	37°	28°	17°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	27°	29°	39°	54°	53°	76°	81°	78°	69°	57°	42°	31°
HIGH FOR MONTH	42°	45°	59°	74°	81°	89°	91°	88°	83°	74°	60°	47°
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	99%	90%	59%	20%	2%	0%	0%	8%	34%	73%	95%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	10%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	62%	58%	51%	50%	49%	51%	56%	59%	60%	70%	73%
DRY DAYS	59%	64%	65%	63%	70%	68%	71%	71%	64%	65%	58%	58%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	85%	87%	84%	80%	80%	79%	82%	80%	78%	81%	80%	84%
DRY HOURS	63%	70%	80%	84%	92%	93%	95%	94%	91%	87%	74%	67%
LIKELY SNOWFALL	15.4"	11.1"	10.8"	3.1"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.7"	7.4"	12.7"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	41%	36%	28%	11%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	25%	42%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	2%	6%	11%	19%	17%	17%	11%	5%	1%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	11%	8%	11%	8%	7%	10%	11%	13%	11%	9%	10%	10%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 47% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 25% in November, to a high of 65% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -18°, and the highest should be near 92°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. Although summer is the most popular season, winter is the dominant one. Winters are long and cloudy and cold. Two-thirds of the winter afternoons will fail to warm to above freezing, and a fourth of the winter nights will drop below zero. The ground is usually snow-covered and the lakes frozen from late November through sometime in April.