

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE BUTTE AREA, MONTANA

LOCATION: Butte is located deep in the Rocky Mountains of southwestern Montana. The city is situated on Silver Bow Creek, part of the Columbia River drainage. As such, it lies west of the Continental Divide. Butte's elevation averages around 5,700 feet above sea level, with the surrounding mountains rising more than 3,000 feet higher.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 9:06 | 10:20 | 11:53 | 13:31 | 14:56 | 15:42 | 15:23 | 14:10 | 12:36 | 10:59 | 9:32 | 8:44 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 3:48 | 5:12 | 6:44 | 7:51 | 8:47 | 9:44 | 12:00 | 10:33 | 8:15 | 6:13 | 3:56 | 3:16 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 25% | 27% | 28% | 30% | 32% | 37% | 60% | 56% | 48% | 39% | 27% | 24% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | -24° | -21° | -11° | 8° | 22° | 28° | 36° | 33° | 21° | 9° | -11° | -17° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 8° | 11° | 17° | 27° | 35° | 42° | 48° | 46° | 37° | 29° | 19° | 11° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 29° | 34° | 40° | 51° | 60° | 69° | 80° | 78° | 67° | 56° | 41° | 32° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 45° | 48° | 55° | 69° | 77° | 84° | 91° | 90° | 82° | 73° | 56° | 49° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 99% | 100% | 98% | 87% | 48% | 11% | 1% | 3% | 38% | 79% | 96% | 97% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 8% | 3% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 67% | 59% | 49% | 40% | 40% | 39% | 30% | 30% | 37% | 45% | 62% | 70% |
| DRY DAYS | 76% | 76% | 73% | 74% | 66% | 64% | 76% | 79% | 80% | 82% | 80% | 78% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 95% | 95% | 95% | 91% | 85% | 82% | 90% | 91% | 92% | 94% | 95% | 95% |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION | 0.11 | 0.10 | 0.13 | 0.18 | 0.30 | 0.38 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.19 | 0.13 | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| LIKELY SNOWFALL | 8.6" | 7.9" | 10.3" | 5.8" | 4.5" | 0.6" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 1.2" | 3.7" | 6.2" | 8.5" |
| SNOWY DAYS | 24% | 24% | 27% | 15% | 8% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 8% | 20% | 22% |
| THUNDER DAYS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 3% | 14% | 24% | 27% | 25% | 8% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| FOGGY DAYS | 8% | 8% | 4% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 1% | 2% | 5% | 7% | 11% |

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 58% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 38% in December, to a high of 78% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -35°, and the highest should be near 94°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. Elevation makes the temperatures between fifteen and twenty degrees cooler than would be the case at sea level. You can expect only the month of July to be reliably frost-free, although August is frost-free in most years. Summer afternoons are long, sunny, and warm more often than hot. Winter afternoons are short, cloudy, and cold to bitter cold. The term "butte" refers to a flat-topped, steep-sided landform that is generally taller than it is wide. In this case, Timber Butte, just southwest of town. Strong local weather variations exist because of the rough topography. Elevation and orientation to the sun and wind are the chief factors.