

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE FLATHEAD LAKE AREA, MONTANA

LOCATION: Flathead Lake is located in the Rocky Mountains in the northwestern corner of Montana. The lake is situated on the Flathead River, a tributary of the Columbia, west of the continental divide. Elevations are some 2,900 feet above sea level. The lake, at roughly 400 square miles, is the largest natural body of fresh water east of the Mississippi. It is a popular vacation destination. Polson is the service center for the lake.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:55	10:13	11:52	13:37	15:07	15:56	15:35	14:18	12:38	10:55	9:22	8:31
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:43	4:12	5:58	7:42	8:47	9:36	12:11	10:37	8:01	5:40	2:49	1:59
AREA OF BLUE SKY	17%	23%	27%	31%	35%	39%	62%	57%	48%	36%	19%	15%
LOW FOR MONTH	-6°	-3°	8°	16°	29°	37°	43°	41°	30°	18°	3°	-3°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	18°	21°	26°	34°	41°	47°	52°	51°	44°	35°	27°	23°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	31°	36°	44°	56°	65°	72°	82°	81°	69°	57°	42°	34°
HIGH FOR MONTH	44°	51°	58°	70°	77°	85°	93°	90°	84°	69°	54°	48°
FROSTY MORNINGS	89%	87%	78%	42%	8%	0%	0%	0%	3%	30%	73%	86%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	75%	67%	53%	42%	43%	44%	34%	33%	40%	52%	72%	79%
DRY DAYS	61%	67%	69%	72%	67%	64%	80%	79%	76%	74%	65%	61%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	87%	90%	90%	88%	84%	81%	91%	90%	88%	88%	86%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.19	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.30	0.37	0.17	0.16	0.21	0.18	0.20	0.20
LIKELY SNOWFALL	13.0"	8.5"	5.7"	1.2"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.7"	4.9"	10.1"
SNOWY DAYS	39%	31%	20%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	15%	32%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	1%	2%	10%	18%	19%	18%	6%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	15%	16%	6%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	12%	15%	19%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 53% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 23% in December, to a high of 78% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -18°, and the highest should be near 99°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones on the cooler days, and a few degrees cooler than actual ones on the hotter days. Summer afternoons are very sunny, dry, and warm to hot. Mountain thunderstorms can be expected once a week or more. Summer nights are cool to chilly. Winter afternoons are cloudy, humid, and below freezing about a third of the time. Winter nights will drop below zero a half-dozen times a season. Almost all of the winter precipitation comes as snow, and the ground will be snow-covered most of the time from late November through March.