

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE HELENA AREA, MONTANA

LOCATION: Helena (HELL'-uh-nuh), the capital of Montana, is located in the west-central part of that state. The city is situated in the Missouri River drainage, and is surrounded by various ranges of the Rocky Mountains. Elevations are over 4,000 feet above sea level in town.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:02	10:17	11:53	13:33	15:00	15:46	15:27	14:13	12:37	10:58	9:29	8:40
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:08	5:35	7:01	8:01	8:52	9:54	11:55	10:27	8:09	6:20	4:19	3:39
AREA OF BLUE SKY	29%	31%	31%	32%	34%	39%	60%	57%	48%	42%	32%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	-18°	-9°	-1°	17°	28°	37°	43°	41°	28°	16°	0°	-13°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	11°	15°	23°	32°	41°	48°	54°	52°	43°	34°	23°	16°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	29°	33°	43°	55°	63°	72°	81°	80°	68°	56°	42°	32°
HIGH FOR MONTH	52°	55°	64°	74°	83°	91°	95°	95°	88°	77°	61°	53°
FROSTY MORNINGS	94%	94%	90%	60%	13%	0%	0%	0%	13%	55%	88%	96%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	7%	24%	22%	4%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	63%	55%	47%	39%	39%	38%	30%	30%	36%	43%	58%	66%
DRY DAYS	71%	74%	72%	72%	64%	61%	75%	78%	77%	81%	77%	74%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	95%	96%	93%	91%	86%	82%	90%	90%	92%	94%	95%	95%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.12	0.10	0.12	0.17	0.31	0.37	0.18	0.14	0.20	0.13	0.11	0.11
LIKELY SNOWFALL	9.7"	7.0"	8.3"	5.5"	1.8"	0.1"	0.0"	0.1"	1.2"	3.2"	6.6"	8.8"
SNOWY DAYS	29%	26%	28%	20%	6%	0%	0%	0%	3%	11%	22%	26%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	25%	27%	25%	6%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	4%	7%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 59% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 42% in December, to a high of 77% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -25°, and the highest should be near 97°. 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 warmer ones. The area has a mountain version of the four-season year. Summers are short, essentially the months of July and August. Summer afternoons are very sunny, quite dry, and hot to warm. Summer afternoon and evening thunderstorms are fairly common, but don't necessarily bring much--if any--rain. Summer nights are distinctly cool. Winter afternoons are short, fairly cloudy, humid, and below freezing much of the time. Winter nights are very cold and drop below zero twenty or so times each winter. Almost all of the winter precipitation comes as snow, but--since there's not much winter precipitation--is quickly blown by the winds into sheltered spots.