

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE KALISPELL AREA, MONTANA

LOCATION: Kalispell is located in northwestern Montana. The city is situated on the Flathead River, a few miles upstream from where the river empties into Flathead Lake. The valley is bordered by mountains on both sides, with the Whitefish Range to the east and the Salish Mountains to the west. Elevations within the city are just under 3,000 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:50	10:11	11:52	13:39	15:11	16:02	15:40	14:21	12:39	10:53	9:18	8:26
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:30	4:05	5:51	7:47	8:49	9:39	12:02	10:25	7:41	5:29	2:38	1:42
AREA OF BLUE SKY	18%	26%	30%	35%	38%	41%	62%	57%	48%	37%	20%	15%
LOW FOR MONTH	-12°	-6°	3°	20°	28°	34°	39°	37°	27°	19°	5°	-5°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	13°	17°	24°	32°	39°	46°	49°	48°	40°	31°	25°	17°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	28°	34°	43°	55°	64°	71°	80°	79°	67°	55°	39°	30°
HIGH FOR MONTH	45°	48°	58°	73°	82°	88°	94°	92°	86°	72°	55°	47°
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	93%	87%	54%	13%	1%	0%	0%	12%	55%	82%	92%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	14%	11%	1%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	73%	67%	55%	43%	43%	45%	36%	36%	42%	53%	72%	79%
DRY DAYS	53%	61%	65%	70%	64%	61%	77%	76%	73%	71%	61%	53%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	84%	87%	90%	89%	83%	81%	89%	88%	89%	89%	85%	84%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.23	0.18	0.16	0.16	0.28	0.35	0.18	0.20	0.22	0.16	0.23	0.24
LIKELY SNOWFALL	14.6"	9.5"	5.9"	2.1"	0.5"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	1.1"	7.4"	14.2"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	45%	36%	24%	10%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	24%	43%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	1%	3%	9%	18%	17%	17%	6%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	16%	17%	7%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	6%	14%	16%	17%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 52% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 20% in cloudy December, to a high of 77% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -20 on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 96 on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the spring and autumn, and pretty close to actual ones the rest of the year. From late November through early February, afternoon temperatures will remain below the freezing point on about half of the days. During the same period, nighttime temperatures will drop below zero about one night in seven. The best weather comes in July and August. The *chinook* (from a Salish Indian word, meaning "snow eater") is a strong, warm, dry, downslope wind common to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. It often sets in following a winter storm. During the *chinook*, temperatures will rise many tens of degrees in as many minutes. The combination of increasing temperatures, high winds, and very low humidities tends to both melt and evaporate large quantities of snow--sometimes as much as a foot or more per hour.