

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO RED LODGE AND THE BEARTOOTH MOUNTAINS, MONTANA

LOCATION: Red Lodge lies along the banks of Rock Creek, within the Beartooth Mountains in southwestern Montana. The community sits at some 5,575 feet above sea level. Granite Peak, rising to 12,799 feet in elevation, is the highest point in Montana, and is some 30 miles to the west.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:11	10:23	11:54	13:29	14:51	15:35	15:17	14:06	12:36	11:01	9:36	8:50
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:01	5:28	7:01	8:03	8:44	9:59	11:22	10:23	8:26	6:30	4:21	3:40
AREA OF BLUE SKY	30%	31%	31%	33%	35%	43%	57%	56%	49%	43%	33%	32%
LOW FOR MONTH	-14°	-14°	-6°	9°	22°	34°	40°	38°	24°	10°	-2°	-11°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	10°	12°	17°	27°	36°	43°	50°	48°	39°	31°	21°	15°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	32°	35°	40°	51°	60°	69°	78°	76°	66°	56°	43°	36°
HIGH FOR MONTH	51°	53°	56°	65°	74°	82°	89°	86°	79°	71°	61°	52°
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	98%	94%	72%	29%	5%	0%	0%	18%	48%	87%	95%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	61%	58%	51%	45%	43%	40%	34%	34%	40%	47%	56%	61%
DRY DAYS	72%	69%	62%	63%	56%	60%	69%	75%	72%	74%	67%	75%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	89%	89%	82%	80%	77%	78%	87%	89%	85%	87%	87%	90%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.16	0.16	0.31	0.51	0.55	0.46	0.22	0.21	0.34	0.26	0.21	0.14
LIKELY SNOWFALL	14.8"	13.2"	23.2"	21.0"	7.6"	0.5"	0.0"	0.0"	3.3"	10.4"	13.6"	12.7"
SNOWY DAYS	28%	31%	38%	26%	10%	1%	0%	0%	5%	17%	33%	25%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	25%	29%	24%	9%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	3%	5%	4%	5%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	3%

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 74% in July and August. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -27°, and the highest should be near 95°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones. Mountain weather is extremely variable, and differences in elevation and slope orientation can change conditions drastically. As you go deeper into the Beartooths, you should expect temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for every 300-foot increase in elevation. In addition, summer afternoon thundershowers will become more frequent and more intense. One of the unusual features of the winter here is the "chinook". This is a dry, hot, downslope wind that appears several times each winter after a cold spell. The name means "snow eater" and it can raise temperatures 50° or more in an hour or two. It is most evident at the foot of the mountains, and can completely scour the foothills of snow overnight.