

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE, NORTH CAROLINA

LOCATION: Cape Hatteras is located about as far east as you can get in North Carolina, on the Atlantic coast of that string of barrier islands known as the “Outer Banks”. The Cape itself is situated on the “elbow” of Hatteras Island, near the dangerous and notorious Diamond Shoals. Except for pre-existing villages, most of the island has been set aside as the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Elevations are everywhere within a few feet of sea level, and much of the area is subject to “over-wash” during severe storms.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:05	10:54	11:57	13:04	14:01	14:30	14:18	13:30	12:27	11:20	10:22	9:50
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:50	5:38	7:06	8:41	9:02	9:25	9:18	8:43	7:47	6:50	5:54	4:52
AREA OF BLUE SKY	39%	40%	42%	48%	44%	42%	38%	42%	45%	48%	47%	41%
LOW FOR MONTH	25°	25°	30°	38°	48°	58°	63°	64°	58°	45°	34°	27°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	39°	39°	44°	52°	61°	69°	73°	73°	69°	60°	50°	42°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	53°	53°	59°	66°	74°	80°	84°	84°	80°	72°	63°	56°
HIGH FOR MONTH	69°	68°	72°	78°	83°	88°	90°	89°	88°	82°	76°	70°
FROSTY MORNINGS	33%	31%	11%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	20%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	66%	64%	60%	66%	69%	71%	70%	68%	66%	66%	67%
NEARBY WATERS	49°	46°	52°	59°	68°	74°	78°	80°	77°	70°	58°	55°
DRY DAYS	62%	62%	65%	69%	70%	68%	61%	62%	70%	71%	70%	66%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	76%	75%	76%	84%	79%	79%	76%	76%	81%	81%	79%	80%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.75	0.73	0.69	0.58	0.62	0.73	0.89	0.96	0.90	0.78	0.72	0.75
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	3%	5%	7%	11%	17%	18%	28%	25%	11%	6%	5%	3%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	7%	8%	7%	4%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	3%	4%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 59% of the year’s daylight hours. This might range from a low of 48% in January, to a high of 66% in April. The year’s lowest temperature should be close to 21°, and the highest should be near 91°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° warmer than actual ones during the hotter months, and up to 2° cooler than actual ones during the colder ones. Snow is restricted to flurries, and usually melts as it falls. The hurricane season runs from late June through November, with August and September as the most likely months. Severe tropical storms reach the area about one year in seven, with a true hurricane coming along about one year in twenty. During storms, the single road that runs the length of the island can be over-washed by the sea, or closed by drifting sands.