

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO VALENTINE AND THE NIOBRARA NATIONAL RIVER, NEBRASKA

LOCATION: Valentine, the county seat of sprawling Cherry County, is located in north-central Nebraska. The town is situated in the valley of the Niobrara River at the northern edge of the Sand Hills. Elevation are some 2,600 feet above sea level. A few miles to the north, across the South Dakota boundary, lies the Rosebud Indian Reservation (Sioux). The Niobrara National Scenic River starts at Valentine and continues some 76 miles to the Spencer Dam near US-281. The upper part of the area contains several Class II rapids, and is popular with canoeists and rafters.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:25	10:31	11:54	13:22	14:38	15:18	15:01	13:57	12:33	11:06	9:48	9:06
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:46	6:36	7:07	7:59	9:17	10:40	11:44	10:25	9:01	7:35	5:33	5:16
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	38%	35%	36%	38%	47%	56%	55%	54%	50%	41%	40%
LOW FOR MONTH	-15°	-12°	-3°	17°	29°	41°	48°	45°	30°	18°	1°	-11°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	8°	12°	21°	34°	44°	55°	61°	58°	47°	35°	22°	12°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	33°	37°	46°	59°	70°	80°	88°	86°	76°	64°	47°	36°
HIGH FOR MONTH	57°	61°	74°	84°	91°	98°	103°	102°	96°	86°	72°	61°
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	98%	85%	43%	7%	0%	0%	0%	5%	36%	88%	98%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	19%	41%	36%	15%	1%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	59%	56%	50%	42%	43%	42%	40%	41%	37%	41%	51%	56%
DRY DAYS	82%	80%	76%	71%	65%	62%	71%	72%	77%	84%	84%	82%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	95%	91%	85%	81%	80%	83%	86%	89%	92%	94%	96%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.07	0.09	0.18	0.33	0.46	0.51	0.46	0.38	0.23	0.17	0.10	0.07
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.5"	5.6"	8.7"	3.7"	0.7"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"	1.4"	4.8"	5.2"
SNOWY DAYS	18%	19%	17%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	12%	17%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	6%	17%	31%	30%	26%	13%	3%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	6%	6%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%	5%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 66% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 57% in November, to a high of 78% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -22°, and the highest should be near 105°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones on the cooler days, and a degree or two cooler on the warmer ones. The area has a continental version of the mid-latitude four-season year. Its location far from the moderating effects of any large body of water brings about extreme month-to-month and year-to-year variations in both temperatures and precipitation. Expect temperatures to not make it above zero—even in the afternoon—on one or two days each winter. Precipitation is light, and is concentrated in the thunderstorms of spring and early summer. The rest of the year is quite dry. About one winter in three will see a true blizzard that halts all travel and outdoor activities and causes considerable loss of livestock.