

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE WASATCH MOUNTAINS RESORT AREAS, UTAH

LOCATION: The Wasatch Mountains are located in central Utah. They run north/south, starting from just below the Idaho border and ending just at the edge of the Colorado Plateau country near I-70. Elevations range from just under 5,000 feet on the lower slopes to some 11,750 at the summit of Mount Timpanogos. The table below is representative of the 8,700-foot elevation typical of such ski resorts as Alta, Brighton, Deer Valley, Park City, Park West, Snowbird, Solitude, Sundance, and Wolf Mountain. Many of these ski resorts are world-class, and are famous for their powder snow. The Wasatch Mountains generally get good ski conditions well before the Rocky Mountain resorts, with the ground being frozen and snow-covered by the middle of October.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:38	10:38	11:55	13:16	14:26	15:02	14:47	13:48	12:31	11:10	9:59	9:20
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:26	5:49	7:34	9:04	10:26	11:57	12:12	11:18	10:21	8:01	5:15	4:02
AREA OF BLUE SKY	28%	29%	34%	37%	44%	57%	64%	64%	64%	54%	38%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	-15 °	-11 °	-5 °	4 °	15 °	27 °	33 °	33 °	20 °	12 °	-3 °	-7 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	7 °	8 °	11 °	20 °	29 °	36 °	43 °	42 °	34 °	26 °	15 °	9 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	31 °	33 °	36 °	44 °	54 °	64 °	72 °	70 °	63 °	52 °	39 °	33 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	42 °	45 °	48 °	55 °	64 °	74 °	80 °	78 °	72 °	63 °	51 °	45 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	93%	72%	26%	3%	6%	39%	82%	97%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	83%	71%	56%	46%	40%	31%	26%	28%	34%	48%	71%	85%
DRY DAYS	68%	67%	67%	71%	75%	84%	85%	82%	81%	81%	77%	71%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	64%	64%	64%	67%	80%	84%	88%	85%	86%	81%	74%	66%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.85	0.92	0.86	0.70	0.44	0.28	0.22	0.31	0.33	0.48	0.70	0.81
LIKELY SNOWFALL	65.1"	62.8"	66.9"	45.9"	14.9"	2.6"	0.0"	0.1"	3.0"	19.1"	47.6"	61.2"
SNOWY DAYS	50%	40%	33%	29%	13%	5%	0%	0%	2%	14%	24%	47%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	2%	5%	6%	18%	18%	21%	24%	15%	6%	2%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	39%	29%	10%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	17%	39%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 66% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 43% in December, to a high of 83% from July through September. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -23°, and the highest should be near 81°. Sensible summer afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 5° cooler than actual ones. Elevation and--to a lesser degree--slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets.