

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SAULT STE. MARIE AND THE “SOO” LOCKS, ONTARIO

LOCATION: Sault Ste. Marie is located on the Ontario side of the short St. Mary’s River, where it flows from Lake Superior into Lake Huron. The river is not navigable, and the “Soo” locks enable shipping to pass from one lake to another during most of the year. This makes the “Soo” a transportation hub, but it also has both steel and paper mills. The sister city of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, lies across the river via highway and rail bridges. Elevations are around 625 feet above sea level. Despite its industrial and commercial focus, the “Soo” is a rather pleasant city, and makes a good stopover on the trans-Canada route.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:03	10:18	11:53	13:33	14:59	15:46	15:26	14:12	12:37	10:58	9:29	8:40
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:56	4:45	6:18	7:19	8:29	9:19	9:41	8:09	5:45	4:00	2:09	2:08
AREA OF BLUE SKY	21%	30%	35%	37%	38%	41%	45%	41%	33%	27%	16%	17%
LOW FOR MONTH	-17 °	-17 °	-8 °	12 °	25 °	34 °	40 °	39 °	31 °	24 °	8 °	-9 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	6 °	6 °	15 °	29 °	39 °	48 °	53 °	53 °	46 °	37 °	27 °	14 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	22 °	23 °	33 °	47 °	61 °	70 °	75 °	73 °	64 °	53 °	39 °	27 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	38 °	41 °	52 °	71 °	84 °	87 °	89 °	89 °	82 °	72 °	56 °	43 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	100%	93%	66%	19%	1%	0%	0%	4%	27%	72%	95%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	74%	70%	67%	59%	53%	59%	60%	62%	67%	68%	76%	78%
NEARBY WATERS	38 °	35 °	32 °	36 °	38 °	41 °	47 °	56 °	55 °	49 °	44 °	43 °
DRY DAYS	41%	51%	61%	62%	63%	65%	66%	66%	56%	55%	44%	41%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	77%	83%	82%	80%	81%	79%	81%	79%	74%	75%	71%	74%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.41	0.29	0.33	0.40	0.43	0.50	0.46	0.52	0.62	0.53	0.55	0.47
LIKELY SNOWFALL	27.2"	16.4"	12.7"	5.1"	0.5"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	2.6"	14.5"	28.0"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	59%	49%	38%	17%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	42%	59%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	2%	5%	10%	19%	19%	17%	14%	6%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	6%	7%	10%	9%	11%	13%	16%	20%	20%	16%	10%	10%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 47% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 23% in November, to a high of 63% 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 92° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. Winter is the dominant season, and generally runs from early November through early April. During that time, about two-thirds of the days will remain below the freezing point all day long, and one out of five sunrises will start out below zero. The winds off Lake Superior have the effect of delaying the start of both winter and spring. The best weather comes from late May through early September.