

# SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LAKE CHELAN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, WASHINGTON

LOCATION: Lake Chelan National Recreation Area is located deep in the Cascade Mountains or northwestern Washington. The NRA is situated in a glacial valley drained by the Stehekin River, and includes the upper four miles of Lake Chelan. There is an NPS ranger station in Stehekin, the service center for the NRA. Elevations at Stehekin are around 1,250 feet above sea level, but the mountains rise several thousand feet higher. The NRA is not accessible by road, but Stehekin is served by passenger ferry from Chelan all year around.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:50	10:10	11:52	13:39	15:12	16:02	15:41	14:21	12:39	10:53	9:18	8:25
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:22	3:37	5:12	6:24	7:45	8:20	10:54	9:48	7:34	5:05	2:44	1:57
AREA OF BLUE SKY	17%	20%	24%	26%	31%	35%	56%	53%	48%	34%	20%	15%
LOW FOR MONTH	4 °	4 °	16 °	26 °	32 °	36 °	42 °	41 °	32 °	23 °	15 °	5 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	23 °	25 °	29 °	36 °	42 °	48 °	53 °	52 °	45 °	37 °	30 °	26 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	33 °	39 °	48 °	59 °	68 °	75 °	82 °	81 °	72 °	57 °	42 °	34 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	46 °	50 °	60 °	74 °	82 °	89 °	94 °	93 °	84 °	70 °	55 °	48 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	91%	74%	31%	5%	0%	0%	0%	3%	27%	65%	92%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	6%	22%	17%	1%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	82%	75%	65%	59%	55%	54%	48%	50%	53%	63%	79%	85%
DRY DAYS	52%	61%	68%	80%	84%	83%	90%	87%	83%	71%	53%	48%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	65%	70%	79%	87%	91%	91%	94%	94%	90%	79%	65%	60%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.97	0.75	0.47	0.24	0.16	0.14	0.08	0.11	0.20	0.50	1.01	1.15
LIKELY SNOWFALL	44.1"	23.5"	7.4"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"	12.7"	40.6"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	36%	22%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	10%	29%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	4%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	48%	45%	39%	36%	36%	37%	30%	33%	28%	36%	46%	55%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 47% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 23% in December, to a high of 70% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to 2 ° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 96 ° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. From December through February, about one day in four will remain below freezing all day long, and below-zero temperatures will occur about every other winter. This summary covers the area around Stehekin. 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 difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets, and therefore in its temperature and humidity.