

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BANFF NATIONAL PARK, ALBERTA, CANADA

LOCATION: The small (it *is* small) town of Banff is located in southwestern Alberta. It is situated in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, less than ninety miles west of Calgary. Banff sits on the north bank of the Bow River, and is completely surrounded by the mountains. Banff is also the Headquarters of Banff National Park. Elevations in town are around 4,600 feet above sea level, but surrounding mountains rise to well over ten-thousand feet. A few miles north up the Bow Valley Parkway is the even smaller resort community of Lake Louise.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:28	9:58	11:51	13:49	15:33	16:30	16:06	14:36	12:43	10:46	8:59	8:00
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:51	3:31	4:15	5:08	6:22	6:35	8:22	6:50	5:39	4:05	2:45	1:26
AREA OF BLUE SKY	45%	45%	44%	43%	36%	40%	52%	50%	44%	45%	41%	49%
LOW FOR MONTH	-25 °	-22 °	-12 °	9 °	22 °	30 °	34 °	32 °	23 °	11 °	-9 °	-23 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	4 °	8 °	15 °	26 °	34 °	40 °	44 °	42 °	36 °	29 °	17 °	8 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	22 °	29 °	37 °	48 °	58 °	65 °	73 °	70 °	60 °	49 °	32 °	23 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	41 °	44 °	52 °	65 °	74 °	79 °	86 °	83 °	77 °	67 °	49 °	42 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	97%	95%	93%	79%	35%	3%	0%	3%	26%	61%	93%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	62%	58%	50%	47%	46%	47%	41%	44%	48%	55%	63%	67%
DRY DAYS	66%	68%	67%	65%	58%	52%	61%	59%	62%	69%	67%	67%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	88%	90%	88%	85%	80%	75%	82%	80%	82%	86%	86%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.21	0.16	0.17	0.20	0.34	0.44	0.32	0.34	0.28	0.19	0.22	0.22
LIKELY SNOWFALL	13.8"	9.6"	10.8"	8.8"	5.8"	0.8"	0.1"	0.1"	2.6"	5.9"	12.2"	14.4"
SNOWY DAYS	34%	32%	34%	22%	13%	3%	2%	0%	6%	15%	30%	33%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	7%	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	5%	5%	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	6%	4%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 38% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 18% in December, to a high of 52% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -37°, and the highest should be near 87°. Sensible summer afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones. Summers are short, with warm days and chilly nights. Winters are long and snowy, with most days remaining below freezing. Snow comes early and stays late, and the ground is usually snow-covered most of the year. Temperatures drop quickly once the afternoon shadow covers the town, and drop even more quickly after sunset. The *chinook* (from a Salish Indian word meaning "snow eater") is a strong, warm, dry, downslope wind common to the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. It often sets in following a winter storm. During the chinook, temperatures will rise many tens of degrees in as many minutes. The combination of increasing temperatures, high winds, and very low humidity tends to both melt and evaporate large quantities of snow---sometimes as much as a foot or more per hour.