

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE FORT SIMPSON AREA, NORTHWEST TERRITORY

**LOCATION:** The Fort Simpson area is located in the southwestern corner of the Territory. It is centered about the town of Fort Simpson, at the junction of the Liard River with the Mackenzie River. The area includes the communities of Fort Liard, Jean-Marie River, Nahanni Butte, Netla, Trout Lake, and Wrigley. It also includes Nahanni National Park, plus Blackstone and Sambaa Deh Falls Territorial Parks. Elevations are around 500 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	6:18	8:51	11:44	14:45	17:38	19:30	18:40	16:00	13:03	10:05	7:14	5:26
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:48	3:30	5:32	8:06	8:29	8:50	9:05	8:52	5:07	2:59	1:44	0:58
AREA OF BLUE SKY	45%	37%	42%	35%	30%	29%	28%	36%	35%	30%	27%	37%
LOW FOR MONTH	-49 °	-44 °	-34 °	-13 °	21 °	33 °	39 °	33 °	23 °	2 °	-25 °	-41 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-25 °	-20 °	-8 °	16 °	34 °	46 °	50 °	46 °	36 °	22 °	-3 °	-19 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	-9 °	0 °	16 °	39 °	57 °	69 °	74 °	69 °	56 °	36 °	11 °	-3 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	22 °	25 °	40 °	60 °	77 °	84 °	87 °	83 °	73 °	60 °	36 °	21 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	91%	37%	1%	0%	4%	34%	86%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	79%	73%	64%	57%	49%	47%	49%	53%	59%	74%	83%	79%
DRY DAYS	68%	69%	71%	79%	73%	68%	66%	70%	73%	69%	65%	65%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	93%	94%	91%	87%	84%	83%	85%	87%	85%	88%	92%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.12	0.11	0.09	0.12	0.20	0.26	0.33	0.28	0.21	0.18	0.16	0.13
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.1"	7.0"	6.0"	4.6"	2.3"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	1.1"	7.5"	10.1"	8.1"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	32%	31%	28%	15%	6%	0%	0%	0%	5%	26%	35%	35%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	12%	12%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	9%	12%	17%	9%	4%

**COMMENTS:** Bright sunshine is likely on 41% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 18% in December, to a high of 55% in August. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -52°, and the highest should be near 89°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the summer months. "Freeze-up" starts on the lakes and rivers sometime in early October, with the "break-up" occurring around late April. Sizeable local bets are won and lost of the precise date of the latter. River crossings served by government ferries do not operate during either the freeze-up or the break-up, and road travel may not be possible at such time. Trout Lake can be reached only by winter road. From early June through the middle of July, the combination of daylight and twilight means that there is really very little true night at all. However, all of the area is south of the Arctic Circle, and the true "midnight sun" does not occur.