

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE MACKENZIE RIVER DELTA, NORTHWEST TERRITORY

LOCATION: The Mackenzie River Delta area is located in the extreme northwestern portion of the Territory. The landscape is largely tundra, underlain by permafrost. Inuvik is the largest town and major service and transportation center for the area, and is the NWT's second largest town, after Yellowknife. Other communities include Aklavik, Arctic Red River, Fort Macpherson, Martin House, and Tsiigehtchic. The area also includes Chuk and Nitainlah Territorial Parks, plus the Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary. Elevations are all within a few hundred feet of sea level. The area is served by the all-year Dempster Highway from Dawson City in the Yukon, and by a winter road up the Mackenzie River valley from Norman Wells. All the larger communities have airfields. Ferry crossings on the Highway do not operate during spring break-up or fall freeze-up, and traffic may be halted for a few weeks at those times.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	2:46	7:36	11:38	15:46	20:59	24:00	23:06	17:40	13:24	9:22	4:58	0:22
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:24	3:18	5:42	9:12	9:38	13:17	8:58	6:41	3:11	2:20	0:41	0:00
AREA OF BLUE SKY	49%	49%	53%	44%	40%	41%	39%	32%	26%	25%	40%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	-48 °	-47 °	-39 °	-27 °	2 °	28 °	35 °	32 °	19 °	-9 °	-32 °	-44 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-28 °	-27 °	-20 °	-3 °	22 °	40 °	47 °	43 °	32 °	13 °	-12 °	-23 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	-12 °	-10 °	0 °	18 °	39 °	60 °	66 °	60 °	45 °	24 °	2 °	-8 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	17 °	19 °	25 °	44 °	63 °	78 °	82 °	77 °	64 °	42 °	23 °	20 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	17%	2%	10%	56%	100%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	63%	56%	59%	59%	47%	52%	58%	67%	74%	69%	64%
DRY DAYS	69%	68%	73%	73%	81%	77%	68%	63%	63%	58%	63%	66%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	94%	95%	96%	94%	94%	90%	86%	83%	87%	85%	91%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.13	0.21	0.24	0.17	0.18	0.12	0.10
LIKELY SNOWFALL	6.8"	5.3"	4.9"	5.6"	4.6"	1.4"	0.1"	1.3"	3.7"	11.1"	8.7"	6.8"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	31%	32%	27%	26%	16%	3%	0%	2%	18%	42%	37%	34%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	8%	6%	6%	4%	8%	5%	3%	7%	9%	8%	5%	7%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 38% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of no sunshine at all (late November through early January), to a high of 58% in April. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -52°, and the highest should be near 83°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be about 3° cooler than actual ones during the warmer months. Daylight is continuous from early May through the end of July. Break-up on the Mackenzie River usually occurs in May. Freeze-up starts in September. Winter roads are passable only when the river ice is strong and thick.