

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK, ALBERTA & NWT

LOCATION: Wood Buffalo National Park is located on the border between northern Alberta and southeastern Northwest Territories. Park Headquarters is in Fort Smith, which is also the major service center for the Park. Visitor Centers are located in both Fort Smith and Fort Chipewyan, on the shores of Lake Athabaska. The road to Fort Chipewyan is only open in the *winter*. The Park is Canada's largest, and covers more area (almost 11,000 square miles) than the nation of Switzerland. It is the home of the largest existing herd of free-range bison; as well as moose, caribou, bears, wolves, untold millions of waterfowl, and gazillions of biting insects. Elevations range from just under 600' in the lowlands to some 2,725' in the Caribou Mountains.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	6:49	9:06	11:46	14:32	17:08	18:43	18:02	15:41	12:58	10:14	7:39	6:04
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:58	4:11	5:23	8:00	9:06	10:33	9:33	8:39	4:26	2:46	1:31	0:52
AREA OF BLUE SKY	46%	45%	46%	45%	39%	39%	36%	39%	36%	28%	24%	36%
LOW FOR MONTH	-49°	-45°	-39°	-17°	17°	28°	35°	29°	21°	1°	-25°	-43°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-23°	-18°	-6°	17°	34°	44°	49°	46°	37°	25°	3°	-14°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	-4°	3°	19°	40°	58°	69°	73°	69°	56°	40°	17°	2°
HIGH FOR MONTH	26°	29°	42°	56°	77°	82°	88°	84°	75°	63°	41°	30°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	90%	40%	5%	2%	5%	35%	79%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	83%	78%	60%	49%	44%	42%	45%	48%	57%	71%	77%	78%
DRY DAYS	61%	64%	71%	78%	76%	68%	66%	66%	62%	61%	55%	56%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	93%	93%	92%	89%	84%	83%	84%	81%	85%	87%	91%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.17	0.25	0.35	0.27	0.27	0.18	0.17	0.15
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.1"	7.1"	7.1"	4.7"	1.4"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	1.0"	7.0"	11.2"	10.1"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	39%	32%	27%	15%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	22%	45%	41%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	11%	16%	12%	1%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	4%	7%	10%	12%	9%	3%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 45% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 14% in December, to a high of 56% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -51°, and the highest should be near 90°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4°F cooler than actual ones during the summer months. "Freeze-up" on the area's lakes and streams usually starts sometime around the middle of October, and the "break-up" will normally occur in early May. Check locally before heading for Fort Chipewyan, since the winter road is not passable until the surface is frozen hard. Don't even try it with a low-clearance vehicle.