

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SVALBARD ARCHIPELAGO, NORWAY

LOCATION: The Svalbard (Spitsbergen) Archipelago is located in the Arctic Ocean, some 450 miles north of the Scandinavian Peninsula's North Cape. It consists of several heavily-glaciated large islands and numerous smaller ones. The main island is Spitsbergen, and the major population center (about 1,500 souls) is the coal-mining center of Longyearben.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	0:00	2:04	11:13	20:33	24:00	24:00	24:00	23:24	14:48	6:01	0:00	0:00
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:00	0:03	2:22	7:26	8:03	5:20	4:55	4:35	2:23	0:21	0:00	0:00
AREA OF BLUE SKY	41%	39%	40%	44%	35%	27%	27%	25%	25%	28%	36%	41%
LOW FOR MONTH	-17 °	-21 °	-21 °	-14 °	5 °	24 °	34 °	32 °	20 °	6 °	-5 °	-14 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	2 °	0 °	-1 °	5 °	21 °	33 °	39 °	38 °	30 °	20 °	12 °	7 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	12 °	11 °	10 °	17 °	30 °	39 °	46 °	44 °	36 °	26 °	20 °	15 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	33 °	33 °	33 °	34 °	39 °	47 °	53 °	52 °	44 °	39 °	36 °	35 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	99%	104%	99%	100%	95%	43%	2%	9%	65%	94%	98%	99%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	79%	79%	79%	75%	74%	78%	79%	79%	78%	78%	78%	78%
NEARBY WATERS	29 °	28 °	29 °	29 °	30 °	30 °	35 °	37 °	35 °	33 °	32 °	30 °
DRY DAYS	58%	56%	59%	65%	70%	71%	66%	60%	58%	58%	56%	57%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	89%	88%	88%	92%	93%	91%	90%	84%	83%	82%	84%	87%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.16	0.19	0.17	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.15	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.20	0.19
LIKELY SNOWFALL	17.2 "	18.2 "	18.3 "	10.0 "	7.5 "	5.3 "	0.8 "	1.8 "	8.9 "	16.7 "	17.2 "	18.6 "
SNOWY DAYS	42%	44%	41%	35%	30%	23%	3%	6%	31%	42%	44%	43%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%	9%	12%	9%	5%	2%	1%	1%

COMMENTS: The islands have a sub-polar climate. Violent storms are common in every month of the year. Snow remains on the ground in sheltered spots all year around, and predominates from September through June. No time of year can be counted on to be free of either below-freezing temperatures or snow flurries. Daylight is continuous from April through August. Summer afternoons are chilly to cold. Winter nights are bitterly cold, with the sun never appearing above the true horizon from October through February. Half of the winter nights will record below-zero temperatures. Almost all the precipitation that falls throughout the year is snow. Keep in mind that it takes from ten to fifteen units of snow (depending upon how "dry" it is) to melt down to one unit of precipitation.