

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA

LOCATION: Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve is located astride the Brooks Range in north-central Alaska. It is bordered on the west by the Noatak National Preserve and on the east by the Arctic National Wildlife Range. Together, the three areas virtually cover the state from west to east, separating the North Slope from the rest of the state. The Park is border on the east by the Dalton Highway, but Bettles is the service and transportation hub of the Park. Elevations are about 643 feet above sea level at Bettles, but range up to 8,510 at the summit of Mount Igikpak. This guide is primarily for the lower elevations of the southern slopes of the Park. Higher elevations will be cloudier, colder and wetter.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	4:05	7:56	11:39	15:29	19:48	23:56	22:06	17:12	13:18	9:33	5:39	2:19
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:11	5:05	8:05	11:16	12:28	14:55	11:09	6:56	5:41	4:05	3:03	1:09
AREA OF BLUE SKY	51%	51%	51%	46%	41%	38%	31%	26%	31%	30%	44%	44%
LOW FOR MONTH	-49°	-45°	-35°	-15°	18°	35°	38°	31°	16°	-11°	-34°	-44°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-20°	-18°	-8°	10°	33°	47°	49°	44°	32°	12°	-9°	-17°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	-4°	0°	14°	32°	53°	68°	69°	62°	48°	25°	5°	-2°
HIGH FOR MONTH	25°	24°	34°	49°	70°	81°	83°	77°	63°	42°	29°	24°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	101%	100%	97%	43%	0%	0%	7%	50%	96%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	68%	63%	61%	61%	52%	48%	55%	63%	63%	74%	72%	71%
DRY DAYS	76%	75%	75%	80%	80%	68%	64%	57%	64%	64%	68%	68%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	94%	93%	94%	94%	86%	83%	78%	83%	88%	92%	91%
TOTAL PRECIPITATION	0.8"	0.6"	0.7"	0.6"	0.6"	1.4"	1.9"	2.5"	1.8"	1.2"	0.9"	0.9"
LIKELY SNOWFALL	12.1"	9.2"	10.4"	7.2"	1.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	1.8"	11.9"	13.1"	15.0"
SNOWY DAYS	26%	28%	26%	19%	3%	0%	0%	0%	5%	30%	32%	34%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	8%	8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	6%	4%	6%	2%	2%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 55% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 40% in August, to a high of 73% in April. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -55°, and the highest should be near 85°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones. The Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve consists of roughly 8.5 million acres of pure wilderness. There are no developments of any kind, no maintained trails, and no services. There is a Visitor's Center of sorts in Bettles. The Park is a habitat for moose, caribou, Dall sheep, grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, and zillions of voracious insects.