

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE FAIRBANKS AREA, ALASKA

LOCATION: Fairbanks is located in central Alaska. The city is situated on the banks of the Chena River, not too far from its junction with the Tenana River. Fairbanks sits at an elevation of a bit over 400 feet above sea level. The local terrain is a relatively level, elevated floodplain.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	5:14	8:22	11:42	15:08	18:40	21:29	20:07	16:37	13:11	9:48	6:26	4:03
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:46	4:10	7:14	10:12	10:19	11:34	9:00	5:46	4:06	2:47	2:27	1:14
AREA OF BLUE SKY	37%	38%	40%	35%	31%	27%	25%	22%	24%	21%	32%	30%
LOW FOR MONTH	-43°	-39°	-28°	-3°	26°	38°	42°	34°	22°	-5°	-29°	-40°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-19°	-12°	-3°	18°	36°	47°	50°	45°	34°	18°	1°	-16°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	-2°	9°	23°	42°	59°	71°	72°	66°	54°	34°	12°	1°
HIGH FOR MONTH	29°	33°	45°	59°	74°	84°	85°	80°	69°	53°	34°	31°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	92%	27%	1%	0%	4%	38%	93%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	72%	66%	56%	47%	40%	45%	52%	56%	58%	70%	75%	73%
DRY DAYS	73%	76%	81%	86%	77%	65%	59%	58%	68%	65%	67%	73%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	94%	97%	97%	94%	87%	83%	83%	89%	92%	93%	94%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.11	0.08	0.08	0.05	0.10	0.23	0.32	0.32	0.19	0.13	0.12	0.11
LIKELY SNOWFALL	10.7"	8.7"	6.5"	3.3"	0.8"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	1.5"	10.7"	13.6"	13.7"
SNOWY DAYS	30%	28%	22%	14%	3%	0%	0%	0%	4%	34%	39%	34%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	9%	8%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	16%	10%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	6%	5%	6%	5%	12%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely to occur on 45% of the year's daylight hours. This will probably range from a low of 30% in December, to a high of 67% in April. The expected lowest temperature for the year will be around -50° on some windless winter sunrise, and the most probable highest will be near 87° on some sunny summer afternoon. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will generally be close to actual ones most of the year, but a few degrees cooler than actual ones during the summer. Although still 120 miles south of the Arctic Circle, more than three hours of twilight (half before sunrise and half after sunset) means that there is no true dark from late May through late July. Conversely, on Midwinter's Day, the sun barely rises above the horizon. The ground is snow-covered most of the winter. The river freezes solidly enough to support pedestrians by late October. The "breakup" of the river ice usually occurs during the first week in May. Fairbanks has a true continental climate, and the seasonal temperature range is almost 140°.