

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO KOBUK VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA

LOCATION: Kobuk Valley National Park is located in northwestern Alaska. The Park occupies the south slope of the Baird Mountains, surrounding the upper basin of the Kobuk River. Elevations range from a bit over 100 feet above sea level along the lower portion of the river, to over 3,300 feet in portions of the crest of the Baird Mountains. The service center for the Park is Kotzebue. There are no trails, campgrounds, or facilities in the Park. There is a ranger at Onion Passage during the summer months.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	4:07	7:57	11:39	15:29	19:46	23:55	22:04	17:11	13:18	9:34	5:40	2:23
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:16	1:51	4:25	4:54	3:42	7:07	5:46	3:20	1:56	0:58	0:13	0:01
AREA OF BLUE SKY	41%	48%	45%	42%	38%	33%	26%	21%	27%	31%	34%	41%
LOW FOR MONTH	-33 °	-34 °	-29 °	-19 °	7 °	29 °	39 °	38 °	24 °	0 °	-18 °	-30 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-9 °	-13 °	-8 °	3 °	25 °	38 °	48 °	47 °	36 °	18 °	3 °	-9 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	4 °	2 °	9 °	21 °	38 °	50 °	59 °	57 °	47 °	28 °	13 °	4 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	28 °	26 °	30 °	38 °	55 °	68 °	73 °	69 °	59 °	42 °	31 °	30 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	100%	99%	83%	23%	0%	0%	26%	92%	100%	100%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	72%	71%	71%	75%	78%	79%	77%	78%	75%	77%	76%	74%
DRY DAYS	75%	75%	76%	77%	83%	78%	66%	55%	59%	67%	67%	72%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	98%	98%	98%	97%	95%	87%	81%	84%	94%	95%	96%
TOTAL PRECIPITATION	0.4 "	0.3 "	0.3 "	0.3 "	0.3 "	0.5 "	1.5 "	2.1 "	1.5 "	0.7 "	0.5 "	0.4 "
SNOWFALL	6.1 "	4.8 "	5.4 "	4.7 "	1.6 "	0.1 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	1.0 "	6.4 "	8.1 "	7.2 "
SNOWY DAYS	50%	48%	47%	50%	27%	5%	0%	1%	13%	49%	61%	55%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	4%	4%	2%	5%	11%	16%	8%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%

COMMENTS: The Park gets the “midnight sun” for several day around midsummer. When you count twilight, the sky is at least light from early May through early August. At the other end of the year, the sun skates across the horizon near midwinter, with only a small portion of its disc showing. Real winter starts in late October, when the Chukchi Sea ices over. This ice won’t break up until late May, and floating ice can be expected right into July. This Guide applies mostly to the elevations along the river. Expect the higher elevations to be cloudier, colder, and wetter. The area qualifies as a “polar desert” due to its low total precipitation. The famous Kobuk Sand Dunes are evidence of this aridity.