

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE KOTZEBUE AREA, ALASKA

LOCATION: The settlement of Kotzebue is located in western Alaska, on the shores of the Chukchi Sea, a portion of the Arctic Ocean. The town is situated near the tip of a long and narrow peninsula, the Baldwin Peninsula. This peninsula thrusts toward the northwest, separating Kotzebue Sound on the southwest from Kobuk Lake (technically, Northam Inlet) on the northeast. The terrain is essentially flat, and offers no obstacles to winds from any direction. Elevations are just a few feet above sea level.

	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%	101%	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: Kotzebue is located some 26 miles north of the Arctic Circle. It thus 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 surrounding seas ice over. This ice won’t break up until late May, and floating ice can be expected right into July. Fogs occur both summer and winter during calm conditions. Calm conditions are rare.