

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA

LOCATION: Kenai Fjords National Park is located in south-central Alaska. The Park is situated on the southeastern slopes of the Kenai Mountains on the Kenai Peninsula. Elevations range from sea level to some 6,400 above it in the Harding Icefield. The service center for the Park is at Seward. The Park's chief attractions are the enormous icefield and its living glaciers. Some 26 species of marine mammals also inhabit the Park.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	6:47	9:05	11:46	14:33	17:10	18:46	18:04	15:42	12:58	10:13	7:37	6:02
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:38	4:04	6:02	7:29	8:16	8:40	7:43	6:15	5:04	3:58	2:47	1:57
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	30%	33%	29%	23%	22%	22%	22%	23%	26%	28%	27%
LOW FOR MONTH	0°	3°	7°	17°	28°	37°	42°	41°	34°	21°	11°	3°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	18°	22°	24°	31°	38°	44°	49°	48°	43°	34°	26°	19°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	29°	33°	37°	44°	52°	59°	63°	62°	56°	45°	36°	30°
HIGH FOR MONTH	42°	44°	50°	56°	64°	72°	76°	74°	68°	55°	46°	42°
FROSTY MORNINGS	93%	92%	86%	59%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3%	36%	76%	89%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	73%	67%	60%	57%	55%	60%	66%	67%	67%	67%	74%	75%
SEA TEMPERATURES	39°	38°	39°	39°	42°	49°	53°	54°	53°	49°	46°	42°
DRY DAYS	53%	51%	59%	52%	51%	56%	59%	51%	46%	44%	50%	53%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	71%	63%	73%	69%	68%	73%	71%	59%	53%	52%	62%	63%
TOTAL PRECIPITATION	4.7"	5.3"	3.4"	4.1"	3.6"	2.2"	3.0"	5.5"	9.5"	10.3"	7.3"	6.4"
SNOWFALL	16.8"	19.8"	12.8"	7.0"	0.1"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	1.6"	6.9"	20.2"
SNOWY DAYS	15%	16%	13%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	13%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	15%	12%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	4%	4%	5%	10%	13%

COMMENTS: Fjords (sometimes spelled fiords) are drowned glacial valleys. As such, they are usually steep-walled, deep, and spectacularly scenic--especially when headed by live glaciers, as both Resurrection Bay and the fjords of the Park are. The great Harding Icefield buries the interior of the Park under almost a mile of ice, leaving only isolated peaks and ridges exposed. This icefield feeds dozens of glaciers, many of which reach the sea at the heads of the area's many fjords. The Park has no facilities except for the Visitor's Center and picnic area near Exit Glacier, outside of Seward. Most of it is accessible only by air and by sea. Seward itself is an attractive and very scenic town. It represents the southern terminus of the Iditarod Trail to Nome, famous in the gold rush days. Its major industry is the halibut cannery