

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SITKA AND THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, ALASKA

LOCATION: The town of Sitka is located in extreme southeastern Alaska, in that strip bordering on Canada called the Alaskan Panhandle. The town is situated on the western (Gulf of Alaska) side of Baronof Island, one of the islands of the Alexander Archipelago. Elevations in town are all within a few hundred feet of sea level.

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT | 7:29 | 9:26 | 11:48 | 14:15 | 16:29 | 17:47 | 17:14 | 15:15 | 12:52 | 10:26 | 8:11 | 6:52 |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE | 1:56 | 2:49 | 4:02 | 5:17 | 6:12 | 6:09 | 5:02 | 4:42 | 3:27 | 1:56 | 1:47 | 1:20 |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY | 21% | 22% | 21% | 21% | 22% | 21% | 19% | 22% | 20% | 14% | 18% | 18% |
| LOW FOR MONTH | 13° | 14° | 18° | 26° | 30° | 37° | 41° | 41° | 35° | 27° | 22° | 15° |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE | 27° | 29° | 30° | 34° | 39° | 45° | 49° | 50° | 46° | 40° | 34° | 30° |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 37° | 40° | 43° | 48° | 54° | 58° | 61° | 62° | 59° | 51° | 44° | 39° |
| HIGH FOR MONTH | 49° | 48° | 52° | 60° | 67° | 72° | 71° | 72° | 69° | 60° | 54° | 50° |
| FROSTY MORNINGS | 68% | 62% | 62% | 36% | 9% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 10% | 39% | 56% |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90° | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY | 79% | 76% | 69% | 65% | 63% | 66% | 71% | 73% | 77% | 81% | 82% | 82% |
| SEA TEMPERATURES | 43° | 43° | 43° | 43° | 47° | 51° | 54° | 57° | 54° | 51° | 48° | 44° |
| DRY DAYS | 43% | 43% | 45% | 43% | 45% | 53% | 44% | 42% | 32% | 26% | 32% | 35% |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS | 60% | 55% | 60% | 62% | 67% | 70% | 65% | 60% | 49% | 34% | 47% | 46% |
| TOTAL PRECIPITATION | 7.5" | 6.5" | 6.3" | 5.4" | 4.4" | 3.3" | 4.5" | 7.1" | 10.6" | 13.2" | 10.2" | 9.3" |
| SNOWFALL | 10.8" | 8.9" | 9.2" | 2.6" | 0.1" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.0" | 0.1" | 3.0" | 11.0" |
| SNOWY DAYS | 41% | 38% | 34% | 16% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 5% | 26% | 40% |
| THUNDER DAYS | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| FOGGY DAYS | 6% | 7% | 5% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 3% | 6% | 11% | 9% | 9% | 6% |

COMMENTS: Until 1867, this community was called New Archangel, and was the capital of Imperial Russian territories in North America. At present, the town is in the heart of the Tongass National Forest, the nation's largest, and serves as an outfitting center for recreation excursions into that vast wilderness area. Sitka National Historic Park contains many of the historic sites and structures that recapture and illustrate its history. Sitka has a distinct marine climate, with the prevailing winds coming off of the Pacific Ocean and passing over the relatively warm Alaskan Current as they approach shore. This leads to small differences in temperature over the year. It also means that, even in the heart of winter, rain is far more likely than snow. Quite often, you will get both in the same shower.