

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LAKE COEUR D'ALENA AREA, IDAHO

**LOCATION:** Lake Coeur D'Alene is located in northwestern Idaho, about 25 miles east of Spokane, Washington. The lake is fed by the Coeur D'Alene and St. Joe rivers, and empties into the Spokane River. The lake lies at an elevation of about 2,300 feet above sea level, and is surrounded by low mountains.

|                       | JAN   | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUN   | JUL   | AUG   | SEP   | OCT   | NOV  | DEC   |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT     | 8:54  | 10:13 | 11:52 | 13:37 | 15:08 | 15:57 | 15:36 | 14:18 | 12:38 | 10:55 | 9:22 | 8:30  |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE     | 2:30  | 4:09  | 6:20  | 8:18  | 9:33  | 10:37 | 12:37 | 11:09 | 8:46  | 5:54  | 2:41 | 1:58  |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY      | 19%   | 24%   | 30%   | 33%   | 37%   | 41%   | 63%   | 62%   | 52%   | 39%   | 22%  | 17%   |
| LOW FOR MONTH         | -7 °  | -3 °  | 8 °   | 19 °  | 30 °  | 37 °  | 41 °  | 39 °  | 30 °  | 17 °  | 7 °  | -2 °  |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE   | 21 °  | 23 °  | 28 °  | 34 °  | 41 °  | 47 °  | 50 °  | 48 °  | 42 °  | 36 °  | 29 ° | 25 °  |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE | 34 °  | 40 °  | 49 °  | 60 °  | 69 °  | 75 °  | 85 °  | 85 °  | 74 °  | 61 °  | 44 ° | 37 °  |
| HIGH FOR MONTH        | 47 °  | 54 °  | 64 °  | 77 °  | 82 °  | 89 °  | 97 °  | 97 °  | 88 °  | 75 °  | 59 ° | 50 °  |
| FROSTY MORNINGS       | 89%   | 84%   | 79%   | 48%   | 8%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 7%    | 31%   | 63%  | 81%   |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °  | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 8%    | 39%   | 34%   | 7%    | 0%    | 0%   | 0%    |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY    | 78%   | 68%   | 53%   | 41%   | 39%   | 36%   | 26%   | 27%   | 35%   | 50%   | 74%  | 82%   |
| DRY DAYS              | 53%   | 58%   | 62%   | 69%   | 70%   | 76%   | 88%   | 86%   | 82%   | 73%   | 57%  | 53%   |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS   | 69%   | 73%   | 77%   | 82%   | 81%   | 85%   | 94%   | 90%   | 88%   | 82%   | 73%  | 69%   |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION   | 0.56  | 0.45  | 0.39  | 0.30  | 0.32  | 0.29  | 0.11  | 0.12  | 0.23  | 0.35  | 0.57 | 0.59  |
| LIKELY SNOWFALL       | 19.6" | 10.2" | 5.3"  | 0.5"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.3"  | 5.1" | 13.3" |
| SNOWY DAYS            | 27%   | 17%   | 8%    | 1%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 6%   | 17%   |
| THUNDER DAYS          | 0%    | 0%    | 1%    | 2%    | 5%    | 10%   | 9%    | 8%    | 3%    | 1%    | 0%   | 0%    |
| FOGGY DAYS            | 28%   | 23%   | 10%   | 4%    | 3%    | 2%    | 1%    | 1%    | 3%    | 13%   | 26%  | 35%   |

**COMMENTS:** Bright sunshine is probable on 56% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 23% in December, to a high of 81% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -20°, and the highest might well be near 103°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones from November through February, and up to 4° cooler than actual ones the rest of the year. The lake has a four-season year, dominated by the winter season. Only the three summer months are normally free of frost, and even they will see freezing temperatures in the odd year. The lake will almost always freeze around the edges and for some distance out, but very rarely freezes over entirely. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets.