

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE GRAND TRAVERSE BAY RESORT AREA, MICHIGAN

LOCATION: An inlet of Lake Michigan, Grand Traverse Bay is located in the northwester portion of Michigan's lower peninsula. The Bay is divided by the Old Mission Peninsula into the West Arm and the East Arm. Traverse City, the service center for the area, is situated at the head of the East Arm. Lake Michigan averages some 580 feet above sea level, and most of the resort and recreational properties are not too far above that. The area features cherry blossoms in the spring, water sports in the summer, a magnificent fall "color show", and snow sports in the winter.

|                        | JAN   | FEB   | MAR   | APR   | MAY   | JUN   | JUL   | AUG   | SEP   | OCT   | NOV  | DEC   |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| HOURS OF DAYLIGHT      | 9:13  | 10:23 | 11:54 | 13:28 | 14:50 | 15:34 | 15:15 | 14:05 | 12:35 | 11:01 | 9:37 | 8:51  |
| HOURS OF SUNSHINE      | 3:16  | 4:34  | 6:06  | 7:30  | 8:55  | 10:03 | 10:35 | 9:13  | 7:08  | 5:21  | 3:14 | 2:40  |
| AREA OF BLUE SKY       | 23%   | 28%   | 33%   | 37%   | 41%   | 44%   | 50%   | 48%   | 43%   | 37%   | 22%  | 22%   |
| LOW FOR MONTH          | -3 °  | -6 °  | -5 °  | 16 °  | 29 °  | 40 °  | 45 °  | 46 °  | 38 °  | 30 °  | 13 ° | 5 °   |
| SUNRISE TEMPERATURE    | 15 °  | 13 °  | 20 °  | 32 °  | 41 °  | 52 °  | 58 °  | 57 °  | 50 °  | 41 °  | 30 ° | 21 °  |
| AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE  | 28 °  | 29 °  | 38 °  | 52 °  | 64 °  | 76 °  | 81 °  | 79 °  | 70 °  | 59 °  | 44 ° | 32 °  |
| HIGH FOR MONTH         | 44 °  | 44 °  | 59 °  | 71 °  | 80 °  | 90 °  | 93 °  | 90 °  | 83 °  | 74 °  | 60 ° | 48 °  |
| FROSTY MORNINGS        | 97%   | 98%   | 89%   | 57%   | 16%   | 1%    | 0%    | 0%    | 3%    | 18%   | 60%  | 89%   |
| AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °   | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 1%    | 8%    | 15%   | 10%   | 3%    | 0%    | 0%   | 0%    |
| AFTERNOON HUMIDITY     | 59%   | 54%   | 50%   | 48%   | 42%   | 48%   | 47%   | 49%   | 54%   | 54%   | 58%  | 61%   |
| NEARBY WATERS          | 39 °  | 37 °  | 36 °  | 36 °  | 39 °  | 47 °  | 57 °  | 64 °  | 60 °  | 52 °  | 46 ° | 44 °  |
| DRY DAYS               | 59%   | 63%   | 70%   | 72%   | 72%   | 78%   | 78%   | 78%   | 70%   | 70%   | 65%  | 60%   |
| REASONABLY DRY DAYS    | 82%   | 84%   | 84%   | 80%   | 81%   | 80%   | 82%   | 82%   | 75%   | 79%   | 75%  | 82%   |
| 5-DAY PRECIPITATION    | 0.30  | 0.25  | 0.26  | 0.41  | 0.45  | 0.50  | 0.45  | 0.44  | 0.61  | 0.44  | 0.46 | 0.29  |
| LIKELY SNOWFALL        | 21.4" | 14.6" | 13.0" | 3.0"  | 0.1"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.0"  | 0.5"  | 8.3" | 18.1" |
| DAYS WITH SOME SNOW    | 41%   | 37%   | 30%   | 15%   | 1%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 1%    | 5%    | 28%  | 40%   |
| DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER | 1%    | 0%    | 2%    | 5%    | 8%    | 14%   | 15%   | 12%   | 11%   | 4%    | 2%   | 0%    |
| DAYS WITH SOME FOG     | 8%    | 10%   | 11%   | 10%   | 12%   | 11%   | 10%   | 15%   | 11%   | 10%   | 11%  | 9%    |

COMMENTS: : Bright sunshine is likely on 52% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 30% in December, to a high of 69% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -8°, and the highest should be near 95°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be a few degrees cooler than actual ones during the spring and autumn, but essentially the same as actual ones in the summer and winter. The prevailing winds are from the west, off of Lake Michigan. This delays the onset of all of the seasons by a week or two compared to places farther inland. This is one of the major factors favoring cherry production in the area, since blossoming is delayed past much of the danger of severe spring frosts.

