

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK, MICHIGAN

LOCATION: Isle Royale National Park is located in Lake Superior, some 45 miles north of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. The closest mainland is actually the Thunder Bay section of Ontario, some 15 miles to the north. Grand Portage in Minnesota lies about 18 miles off the Park's western tip. The Park consists of the main island of Isle Royale plus some 400 smaller islands. Access is by boat (Copper Harbor, Grand Portage, & Houghton) or seaplane only. There are no roads and motorized land vehicles are not permitted. The Park is open from sometime in May until sometime in October. Rock Harbor Lodge (cabins, restaurant, & store) is open from sometime in June until Labor Day. Elevations range from 600 to 1,307 feet above sea level. Crossing by boats under 20-feet are dangerous—indeed, Lake Superior has sunk many ships over 600 feet in length.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:52	10:12	11:52	13:38	15:10	16:00	15:39	14:20	12:39	10:54	9:20	8:28
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:37	4:54	5:43	7:28	8:26	8:55	9:49	8:30	5:49	4:20	2:56	2:55
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	33%	31%	37%	37%	36%	44%	43%	34%	31%	25%	29%
LOW FOR MONTH	-16°	-15°	-5°	13°	23°	33°	40°	41°	35°	24°	8°	0°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	-2°	1°	11°	26°	33°	41°	48°	48°	45°	35°	24°	13°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	11°	15°	26°	42°	53°	62°	68°	66°	62°	50°	35°	24°
HIGH FOR MONTH	25°	32°	50°	60°	72°	78°	81°	80°	77°	67°	51°	39°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	97%	74%	27%	0%	0%	0%	8%	35%	83%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	52%	48%	42%	47%	50%	59%	60%	60%	52%	53%	44%	35%
NEARBY WATERS	38°	35°	31°	38°	41°	46°	52°	55°	56°	48°	44°	42°
DRY DAYS	58%	64%	66%	68%	66%	60%	63%	62%	59%	64%	62%	57%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	84%	86%	85%	84%	82%	78%	79%	79%	76%	80%	81%	83%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.26	0.21	0.22	0.29	0.40	0.52	0.53	0.49	0.57	0.40	0.33	0.27
LIKELY SNOWFALL	20.3"	13.6"	11.8"	5.1"	0.7"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.1"	1.7"	10.7"	18.8"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	42%	36%	29%	13%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	8%	31%	43%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	1%	2%	9%	17%	18%	18%	9%	3%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	4%	5%	8%	8%	11%	17%	14%	18%	15%	12%	8%	4%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 50% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 31% in November, to a high of 63% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -17°, and the highest should be near 83°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be pretty much the same as actual ones. Table conditions are generalized for the entire Park. Shoreline campsites may be a bit cooler during the afternoons.