

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE UPPER MADISON RIVER TROUT COUNTRY, MONTANA

LOCATION: The upper valley of the Madison River, from Ennis south to West Yellowstone, is considered one of the world's "Blue Ribbon" fishing rivers, and attracts fishermen from all over the world. The river flows through an open, grassy valley surrounded by low mountains. Its crystal-clear waters and sparkling riffles and rapids support trophy brown trout, rainbow trout, whitefish, and Arctic grayling. The commercial centers are Ennis and West Yellowstone. Elevations vary as you go up or down river, but average around 5,500 feet above sea level. The area was the site of the films "*A River Runs Through It*" and "*The Patriot*". The fish in the Madison are almost all native fish—not hatchery raised, and "catch-and-release" is the prevailing rule.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:11	10:23	11:54	13:29	14:51	15:35	15:17	14:06	12:36	11:01	9:36	8:50
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	3:43	5:16	6:38	7:45	8:32	9:44	11:33	10:16	8:13	6:15	4:08	3:20
AREA OF BLUE SKY	28%	32%	32%	34%	35%	42%	58%	57%	49%	42%	32%	28%
LOW FOR MONTH	-17°	-15°	-6°	10°	25°	32°	39°	35°	24°	10°	-4°	-12°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	9°	12°	18°	26°	34°	41°	46°	43°	36°	29°	20°	14°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	30°	35°	42°	54°	64°	72°	82°	80°	70°	58°	42°	34°
HIGH FOR MONTH	44°	49°	59°	68°	79°	85°	91°	89°	81°	72°	57°	51°
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	99%	93%	64%	22%	6%	13%	56%	88%	99%	99%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	67%	62%	53%	45%	42%	40%	33%	34%	41%	49%	62%	69%
DRY DAYS	65%	69%	70%	71%	67%	66%	75%	76%	78%	79%	76%	72%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	92%	93%	91%	86%	84%	82%	89%	89%	89%	90%	91%	93%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.12	0.10	0.12	0.17	0.28	0.37	0.20	0.17	0.20	0.14	0.11	0.11
LIKELY SNOWFALL	22.5"	16.6"	17.4"	8.1"	4.0"	0.8"	0.0"	0.1"	1.3"	5.6"	13.7"	19.5"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	35%	31%	30%	18%	7%	1%	0%	0%	2%	9%	24%	28%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	2%	13%	25%	31%	29%	10%	1%	1%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	4%	4%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	4%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 57% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 38% in December, to a high of 76% in July. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -19° on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 93° on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the warmer weather, and pretty much the same as actual ones during the cooler days. From the middle of November through the middle of March, about two days out of three will remain below freezing all day long, and two nights out of five will drop below zero. The ground will be frozen and generally snow-covered from late October through early April. June through October brings the area its nicest weather, although the early and late portions of this period might be a little nippy.