

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO ITHACA AND THE FINGER LAKES DISTRICT, NEW YORK

LOCATION: The Finger Lakes are located in western New York, between Lake Ontario and the Pennsylvania border. They are all long, north-south trending lakes created by the last continental glacier. There are eleven of them, all with the characteristic long, finger-like shape. Lake Cayuga is the longest of these, and Ithaca is located at its foot. The city climbs the bluffs at the end of the lake, and has elevations ranging from about 400 feet above sea level to almost a thousand feet high. Cornell University sits on the bluffs “far above Cayuga’s waters”.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:28	10:32	11:55	13:21	14:35	15:15	14:58	13:55	12:33	11:07	9:50	9:09
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	2:52	4:07	5:02	6:18	8:01	9:08	9:24	8:19	6:58	4:54	2:56	2:08
AREA OF BLUE SKY	20%	24%	26%	31%	36%	39%	41%	41%	41%	35%	23%	16%
LOW FOR MONTH	-5 °	-5 °	5 °	21 °	33 °	42 °	48 °	44 °	38 °	28 °	14 °	0 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	16 °	15 °	24 °	35 °	45 °	54 °	59 °	57 °	51 °	40 °	31 °	21 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	32 °	32 °	41 °	55 °	67 °	76 °	81 °	79 °	72 °	60 °	47 °	35 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	51 °	49 °	63 °	72 °	82 °	87 °	91 °	90 °	85 °	75 °	61 °	50 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	95%	82%	47%	13%	0%	0%	0%	3%	24%	58%	87%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	8%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	70%	68%	62%	55%	55%	56%	56%	58%	61%	60%	68%	72%
DRY DAYS	52%	51%	55%	56%	55%	60%	58%	65%	64%	61%	57%	52%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	84%	83%	79%	75%	74%	77%	76%	81%	80%	77%	79%	82%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.34	0.34	0.39	0.43	0.53	0.61	0.56	0.53	0.52	0.48	0.43	0.37
LIKELY SNOWFALL	15.0"	13.3"	10.6"	3.6"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"	5.1"	13.3"
SNOWY DAYS	48%	49%	44%	19%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	29%	48%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	1%	3%	6%	13%	20%	23%	27%	10%	3%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	7%	8%	10%	8%	8%	8%	8%	10%	11%	9%	9%	9%

COMMENTS: The area has a four-season year. The sun shines on less than half of the year’s daylight hours, ranging from less than a quarter of the time in December to almost two-thirds of the time in July. The annual temperature range is close to 100° in most years, from a few degrees below zero on a bitter winter’s morning to the low 90’s on some sunny summer’s afternoon. Precipitation is moderate, with most of it coming during the warmer months--usually from thundershowers. Look for summer afternoons to be moderately sunny, moderately humid, and warm to hot--but warm more often than hot. Summer nights will be cool to mild--and cool more often than mild. Winter afternoons are cloudy, humid, and cold. About half won’t make it above the freezing point. Winter nights are very cold and will drop below zero a half-dozen times each year. Snowfalls are common, and the ground is often snow-covered for weeks.