

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LAKE OAHE AREA, SOUTH DAKOTA

LOCATION: Lake Oahe is a reservoir lake on the Missouri River in north-central South Dakota and south-central North Dakota. It starts at Oahe Dam just north of Pierre, South Dakota, and extends north almost to the Bismarck - Mandan area of North Dakota. Shoreline elevations are around 1,700 feet above sea level. The lake is some 230 miles long, and is noted for its northern pike, walleye, sturgeon, sauger, paddlefish, and many varieties of panfish. The surrounding uplands are home to grouse, pheasant, Hungarian partridge, antelope and deer.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:09	10:21	11:53	13:30	14:53	15:38	15:19	14:08	12:36	11:00	9:34	8:48
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:03	6:08	7:03	8:07	9:12	10:13	11:22	10:10	8:17	6:41	4:47	4:21
AREA OF BLUE SKY	41%	41%	38%	40%	42%	46%	58%	57%	53%	49%	40%	40%
LOW FOR MONTH	-18 °	-19 °	-2 °	16 °	31 °	43 °	50 °	45 °	32 °	23 °	1 °	-12 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	1 °	7 °	18 °	33 °	44 °	55 °	60 °	58 °	47 °	36 °	21 °	9 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	23 °	29 °	40 °	57 °	70 °	79 °	87 °	86 °	74 °	62 °	43 °	29 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	43 °	49 °	62 °	76 °	89 °	94 °	102 °	98 °	90 °	79 °	59 °	50 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	98%	98%	92%	50%	8%	0%	0%	0%	5%	36%	90%	98%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	12%	38%	35%	10%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	66%	57%	45%	44%	47%	41%	40%	43%	47%	58%	67%
DRY DAYS	84%	82%	81%	77%	74%	67%	74%	77%	83%	87%	87%	87%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	97%	94%	94%	87%	82%	77%	85%	87%	90%	94%	97%	97%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.07	0.08	0.14	0.28	0.42	0.56	0.34	0.31	0.22	0.17	0.08	0.06
LIKELY SNOWFALL	5.5 "	5.7 "	6.2 "	2.3 "	0.3 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.0 "	0.7 "	3.1 "	4.8 "
SNOWY DAYS	16%	18%	14%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	8%	13%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	29%	29%	25%	9%	2%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	5%	6%	6%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	5%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 62% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 50% in November and December, to a high of 74% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -31°, and the highest should be near 109°—giving the area an annual range of some 140°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones during most of the year, and up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the summer and autumn. Abrupt changes in the weather from day to day (and, even from hour to hour) are characteristic of the area. Visitors also notice the strong and usually steady winds (locals are used to them).