

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE LAKE CHELAN RESORT AREA, WASHINGTON

LOCATION: Lake Chelan, Washington's deepest lake (more than 1,500 feet deep), is located in the northwestern quarter of that state. The lake stretches its snake-like contours from the southern edge of North Cascades National Park near Stehekin to some 55 miles southeast at the town of Chelan, the major service for the area. The lake itself is some 1,100 feet above sea level, but the bordering mountains rise to almost 9,600 feet in elevation. This summary focuses on the lower end of the lake, that area that is accessible by road.

	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	2:52	4:16	5:54	7:30	8:47	9:35	11:42	10:32	8:13	5:45	3:18	2:26
AREA OF BLUE SKY	18%	22%	26%	29%	34%	39%	62%	58%	52%	37%	22%	17%
LOW FOR MONTH	2°	5°	17°	28°	35°	41°	46°	45°	35°	24°	14°	4°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	22°	27°	30°	37°	44°	51°	56°	55°	47°	38°	31°	26°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	33°	40°	48°	60°	69°	76°	84°	83°	73°	59°	43°	35°
HIGH FOR MONTH	46°	52°	61°	74°	82°	89°	95°	94°	85°	72°	58°	50°
FROSTY MORNINGS	95%	88%	63%	32%	12%	0%	0%	0%	1%	15%	60%	87%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	28%	23%	2%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	80%	70%	58%	51%	48%	47%	41%	43%	47%	57%	75%	82%
DRY DAYS	61%	66%	76%	82%	84%	85%	92%	90%	87%	79%	68%	63%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	76%	80%	84%	90%	92%	92%	97%	97%	93%	85%	77%	71%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.60	0.43	0.30	0.17	0.12	0.12	0.06	0.12	0.15	0.28	0.57	0.70
LIKELY SNOWFALL	27.2"	17.9"	5.9"	0.2"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.3"	8.2"	23.5"
SNOWY DAYS	28%	24%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	21%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	40%	36%	29%	26%	26%	27%	21%	23%	20%	26%	37%	48%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine occurs on 53% of the year's daylight hours, ranging from a low of 29% in December to a high of 75% in July. The low temperature for the year will be near -8° some windless winter sunrise, while the high will be around 101° some sunny summer afternoon. Early morning fogs and mists are a characteristic of the lake, especially during the cooler months. These usually (but not always) burn off by noon. A typical summer afternoon will be long, very sunny, moderately arid, rainless, and hot. About one afternoon in four or five will top 90°. Summer nights are cool and damp. A typical winter afternoon will be short, cloudy, very humid, and cold. One in three will fail to warm to above freezing. Winter nights are quite cold and almost always below freezing, but rarely below zero. Two-thirds of the winter precipitation comes as snow, but thaws and rains are common. Lake surface water temperatures range from iced-over to the high 60's in the summer shallows with onshore winds. They average in the high 40's and low 50's.