

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, WASHINGTON

LOCATION: Mount Rainier National Park is located in the southwestern part of Washington State. Mount Rainier is a dormant volcano, and rises in ice-capped splendor from the surrounding lowlands. Elevations in the Park range from 1,760 feet above sea level at the Carbon River (northwestern) Entrance to 14,411 at the summit of the mountain. This summary characterizes conditions between 5,000 and 6,000 feet. This is the elevation of the Paradise area. Only the road from the Nisqually (southwestern) Entrance to the Paradise area is kept open all year (weather permitting). All other roads are closed from the first heavy snowfall in October until dug out sometime between early May and early June.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:01	10:17	11:53	13:34	15:01	15:48	15:28	14:13	12:37	10:57	9:27	8:38
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:45	2:28	3:25	4:31	5:44	5:57	9:30	8:28	6:31	4:02	1:50	1:09
AREA OF BLUE SKY	14%	15%	17%	19%	24%	27%	50%	47%	42%	28%	15%	11%
LOW FOR MONTH	3°	5°	10°	14°	23°	25°	32°	34°	29°	18°	8°	1°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	20°	22°	21°	26°	32°	37°	43°	43°	40°	33°	26°	22°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	32°	34°	36°	42°	49°	54°	63°	62°	57°	48°	39°	34°
HIGH FOR MONTH	47°	48°	51°	56°	68°	70°	75°	77°	73°	64°	58°	48°
FROSTY MORNINGS	90%	96%	94%	83%	58%	30%	6%	3%	20%	52%	83%	94%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	90%	86%	81%	75%	70%	68%	60%	62%	66%	75%	90%	92%
DRY DAYS	33%	34%	34%	39%	47%	51%	71%	66%	59%	49%	34%	32%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	37%	45%	46%	60%	68%	68%	87%	83%	70%	61%	48%	37%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	2.69	2.15	1.77	1.20	0.73	0.71	0.27	0.48	1.02	1.73	2.51	2.94
LIKELY SNOWFALL	122.2"	85.8"	98.3"	55.1"	21.8"	5.5"	0.3"	0.1"	5.4"	21.7"	68.6"	101.3"
SNOWY DAYS	49%	47%	59%	47%	25%	6%	1%	0%	4%	10%	30%	38%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	5%	4%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	76%	77%	73%	70%	69%	72%	55%	61%	52%	65%	75%	85%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 35% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 13% in December, to a high of 61% in June. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -10°, and the highest should be near 84°. Sensible summer afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be a couple of degrees cooler than actual ones. Cold-air drainage down the slopes from the live glaciers up above can cause low cloud, fog, and mists to form in the valleys below. The valley bottoms are often completely clouded in during the early mornings, when the higher slopes are in bright sunshine. This low cloud and fog often burns off by noon, but not always.