

# SUNSHINE GUIDE TO MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT, WASHINGTON

LOCATION: Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument is located in the southwestern corner of the state of Washington. It is situated in the southern Cascade Mountains, with the main Visitor's Center just off I-5 near Silver Lake. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1980, the mountain erupted with a force greater than twenty-thousand nuclear bombs. Elevations range up to 8,366 at the crater's edge. The volcano is dormant, not extinct.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:04	10:19	11:53	13:32	14:58	15:44	15:24	14:11	12:37	10:58	9:30	8:42
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:58	2:50	3:50	5:05	6:06	6:13	9:03	7:58	6:22	4:08	2:08	1:27
AREA OF BLUE SKY	16%	18%	20%	22%	26%	28%	46%	44%	41%	29%	17%	14%
LOW FOR MONTH	5°	5°	7°	16°	23°	25°	32°	35°	30°	19°	10°	3°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	23°	24°	26°	29°	33°	38°	45°	45°	42°	37°	30°	27°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	32°	35°	38°	46°	52°	59°	70°	69°	62°	51°	40°	35°
HIGH FOR MONTH	47°	48°	52°	61°	70°	74°	84°	81°	76°	65°	59°	49°
FROSTY MORNINGS	90%	96%	91%	81%	48%	11%	1%	1%	7%	28%	67%	88%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	88%	85%	81%	77%	73%	72%	66%	68%	71%	78%	89%	90%
DRY DAYS	32%	33%	35%	40%	48%	52%	71%	67%	59%	49%	34%	30%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	39%	44%	45%	60%	65%	69%	90%	86%	75%	61%	50%	41%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	2.33	1.94	1.75	1.03	0.75	0.63	0.18	0.32	0.72	1.47	2.23	2.60
LIKELY SNOWFALL	81.0"	63.2"	68.5"	24.4"	7.3"	1.1"	0.1"	0.0"	1.2"	6.9"	29.4"	60.3"
SNOWY DAYS	38%	39%	41%	24%	8%	1%	0%	0%	1%	4%	15%	26%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	4%	3%	5%	3%	1%	1%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	59%	60%	56%	54%	53%	55%	45%	52%	45%	54%	59%	65%

COMMENTS: Table data are characteristic of the 3,300-foot elevation. The area has a upland version of the mid-latitude four-season year, with mild dry summers and cold wet winters. Bright sunshine occurs on 37% of the year's daylight hours, ranging from a low of 17% in December to a high of 59% in July. The low temperature for the year will be near -8° some windless winter sunrise, while the high will be around 90° some sunny summer afternoon. Precipitation is very heavy, with the bulk of it coming during the winter months. More than half the year's days will have fog or low cloud, with fog more common during the morning hours, and low cloud hiding the mountain during the afternoons. A typical summer afternoon will be moderately cloudy, humid, rainless, and mild more often than warm. Summer nights are distinctly chilly, and below-freezing temperatures can occur any night of the year. A typical winter afternoon will be very cloudy, probably snowing or raining, very humid, and close to freezing. The ground will be snow-covered from November through early May.