

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK, WASHINGTON

LOCATION: North Cascades National Park is located in the northwestern portion of Washington state. As its name implies, the Park is situated in the northern Cascade Mountains, and stretches from the Canadian border southeast to McGregor Mountain. The Park is bisected by Ross Lake National Recreation Area along Highway 20, and is supplemented by Lake Chelan National Recreation Area at its southern end. The Visitor Center is near Newhalem along WA-20. Elevations range from a few hundred feet above sea level to 9,131 at the icy summit of Mount Shuksan.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	8:50	10:11	11:52	13:38	15:11	16:01	15:40	14:20	12:39	10:54	9:19	8:26
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	1:24	2:21	3:49	4:10	5:38	5:47	9:14	8:17	6:17	3:46	1:39	1:02
AREA OF BLUE SKY	15%	17%	19%	21%	25%	27%	46%	43%	41%	28%	16%	13%
LOW FOR MONTH	4 °	6 °	12 °	17 °	26 °	32 °	39 °	38 °	34 °	24 °	13 °	2 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	20 °	23 °	24 °	28 °	35 °	40 °	44 °	46 °	41 °	35 °	27 °	22 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	31 °	34 °	38 °	44 °	51 °	57 °	66 °	66 °	59 °	49 °	38 °	33 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	50 °	48 °	54 °	58 °	65 °	74 °	80 °	79 °	73 °	63 °	54 °	46 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	94%	95%	90%	73%	39%	7%	0%	0%	7%	35%	78%	94%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	87%	83%	79%	73%	69%	68%	62%	63%	67%	75%	87%	89%
DRY DAYS	32%	32%	33%	38%	47%	51%	69%	65%	59%	49%	32%	29%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	48%	52%	53%	62%	69%	75%	84%	82%	72%	63%	48%	45%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	1.86	1.71	1.62	1.10	0.80	0.64	0.38	0.39	0.98	1.50	2.03	2.35
LIKELY SNOWFALL	94.2"	76.2"	83.4"	40.5"	13.7"	1.5"	0.0"	0.0"	1.6"	16.7"	64.9"	99.0"
SNOWY DAYS	56%	54%	56%	38%	14%	2%	0%	0%	1%	9%	36%	48%
THUNDER DAYS	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	5%	4%	5%	2%	1%	0%	0%
FOGGY DAYS	62%	63%	60%	57%	56%	58%	47%	52%	45%	57%	63%	70%

COMMENTS: The area has a mountain version of the mid-latitude four-season year. The table data presume a 4,000-foot elevation on a western slope. Elevation and--to a lesser degree--slope orientation rule local climates. You can expect daytime temperatures to drop an average of 1°F for each 300'-increase in elevation--and vice versa going downhill. As in all mountains, the direction the slope is facing makes a tremendous difference in how much sunshine and how much rain the slope gets. Bright sunshine occurs on 34% of the year's daylight hours, ranging from a low of 12% 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 88° some sunny summer afternoon. Precipitation is very heavy, and is concentrated in the winter months. The ground will be snow-covered from late October through May—longer at higher elevations.