

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO SUNDANCE AND THE WESTERN BLACK HILLS, WYOMING

LOCATION: The Black Hills extend from South Dakota westward into Wyoming. The pleasant town of Sundance is nestled in the Black Hills at an elevation of 4,750 feet above sea level. The town takes its name from nearby Sundance Mountain, which was sacred to the Sioux and was the site of one of their most important (and secretive) ceremonies—the Sun Dance. The town is better-known to movie-goers as the source of the nickname of Butch Cassidy’s sidekick, the Sundance Kid. The town is a good base of operations for explorations of the western Black Hills, Devil’s Tower National Monument, the Bearlodge Mountains, and quite a few other attractions in the nearby area.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:16	10:26	11:54	13:27	14:46	15:29	15:11	14:03	12:35	11:03	9:40	8:56
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	5:15	6:20	7:21	8:12	8:57	9:56	11:05	10:24	8:29	7:07	5:20	4:48
AREA OF BLUE SKY	38%	38%	36%	36%	38%	46%	58%	58%	55%	49%	40%	40%
LOW FOR MONTH	-15 °	-15 °	-3 °	9 °	23 °	36 °	44 °	41 °	24 °	8 °	-1 °	-11 °
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	8 °	11 °	17 °	29 °	39 °	47 °	54 °	53 °	43 °	33 °	20 °	13 °
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	30 °	34 °	40 °	53 °	64 °	74 °	83 °	82 °	72 °	59 °	42 °	34 °
HIGH FOR MONTH	45 °	50 °	56 °	68 °	82 °	87 °	94 °	91 °	85 °	74 °	60 °	49 °
FROSTY MORNINGS	100%	100%	90%	67%	19%	3%	0%	0%	13%	42%	87%	97%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90 °	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	16%	16%	3%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	60%	59%	53%	45%	47%	47%	38%	35%	38%	43%	55%	61%
DRY DAYS	81%	82%	74%	73%	68%	67%	74%	84%	80%	81%	80%	81%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	93%	93%	92%	84%	81%	78%	87%	91%	90%	92%	92%	93%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.13	0.13	0.18	0.29	0.43	0.56	0.30	0.23	0.23	0.18	0.14	0.13
LIKELY SNOWFALL	12.3"	12.7"	14.1"	11.2"	2.6"	0.4"	0.0"	0.0"	1.0"	5.1"	10.6"	12.8"
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	19%	18%	26%	17%	3%	0%	0%	0%	2%	9%	20%	19%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	4%	18%	35%	35%	27%	10%	1%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	4%	6%	6%	4%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	5%	5%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 63% of the daylight hours of the year. This might range from a low of 54% in December, to a high of 74% in August. The lowest temperature of the year should be close to -29 on some calm and clear winter sunrise, and the highest should be near 99 on some sunny and windless summer afternoon. Sensible temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be up to 4° cooler than actual ones during the warmer months, and pretty close to actual ones during the cooler weather. From December through February, about two days out of five will remain below freezing all day long, and one night out of five will drop below zero. The ground is frozen and usually snow-covered from late October through early April. The area gets its nicest weather from July through September.