

DAYS BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND SEPTEMBER 1 WHEN:

THE DRIEST TIME

(no precipitation received during time period starting with date listed)

Skagway	April 21, 1933	35 days
Yakutat	June 8, 1959	25 days
Ketchikan	July 9, 1971	23 days
Juneau	April 11, 1979	21 days
Petersburg	May 21, 1958	20 days
Sitka	July 3, 1920	18 days

ALL TIME HIGHEST TEMPERATURES

Ketchikan	June 25, 1913	96°
Skagway	July 11, 1900	94°
Juneau	July 7, 1975	90°
Sitka	August 15, 2004	89°
Yakutat	August 15, 2004	88°
Petersburg	July 1, 1992	83°

GREATEST RAINFALL IN ONE DAY

Sitka	September 1, 1967	8.50"
Ketchikan	August 5, 1920	8.07"
Yakutat	July 28, 1990	7.12"
Petersburg	May 3, 1992	5.07"
Skagway	August 7, 1945	3.68"
Juneau	August 23, 1974	4.06"

NOTE: The data provided is obtained from recorded weather data through 2015. Data collection for Juneau begins in 1890, Skagway in 1898, Sitka in 1900,

TO OBTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION:

Recorded Weather Statewide Menu
Within Alaska 800-472-0391
Anchorage 266-5145
Juneau 790-6850

Recorded Marine Forecasts:
Cordova (907) 424-3333
Juneau (907) 586-3997
Sitka (907) 747-6011
Wrangell (907) 874-3232
Yakutat (907) 784-3654

National Weather Service Offices:
Annette/Ketchikan (907) 886-3241
Juneau (907) 790-6800
Yakutat (907) 784-3322

SUMMER CLIMATE GUIDE TO SOUTHEAST ALASKA

DATA FOR JUNEAU, KETCHIKAN, PETERSBURG, SITKA, SKAGWAY, AND YAKUTAT



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NOAA/NWS



(907) 790-6800
www.weather.gov/juneau

In May of 1965, a total of 15" of snow fell in Yakutat!

Yakutat ●



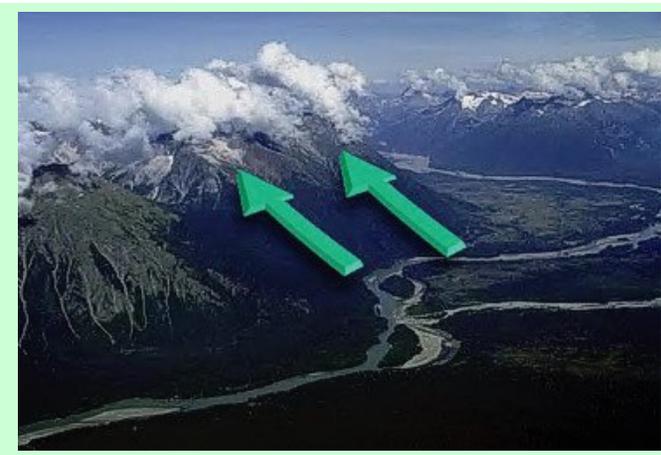
Tom Ainsworth
NOAA/NWS

Skagway, the driest location in Southeast Alaska, received only 1.78" of rainfall during the entire summer of 1908!

● **Skagway**

● **Haines**

Haines temperature hit a Sizzling 98° on July 31, 1976.



MOIST PACIFIC AIR + MOUNTAINOUS TOPOGRAPHY

Air moving eastward off the ocean into Southeast Alaska is driven up in elevation by the mountains. Mountain tops in the area range from about 3,500 to 6,000 feet. As this air rises, it cools at the rate of about 3 to 5 degrees for every 1,000 feet. The colder the air becomes, the less moisture it is able to retain. This moisture condenses into clouds over ridges. Eventually, precipitation is "wrung" out and falls back to earth as rain, occasionally accompanied by lightning.

Southeast Alaska Summer Weather

The archipelago that is Southeast Alaska is part of the world's largest temperate rain forest. Ocean water and currents affect climate. Because it takes far more energy to change the temperature of water than land or air, water warms up and cools off much more slowly than air. As a result, coastal climates are modified by nearby water and inland climates are subject to more extreme temperature ranges. The moist and mild climate of Southeast Alaska allows lush vegetation to flourish at high latitudes. Rainfall is abundant throughout the year, though April, May, and June mark a distinct dry season. The cloud cover and persistent rains of July mark the end of the dry season during a "typical summer" in Southeast. According to some locals, this marks the end of summer, but temperatures can reach 80°F in August.

Heat waves are rare in the Panhandle. Due to persistent cloud cover and the proximity of cool ocean water, 70°F is considered warm. An average southeast summer can see from 5 to 40 days with temperatures 70°F or greater, and up to 5 days with highs in the 80s. Our hottest days normally occur in June and July, when the days are longest. Temperatures at night often drop into the 40s. If you are in the mountains, near freezing temperatures are possible, so dressing in layers is important.

Thunderstorms, lightning, small hail, waterspouts (weak tornados over water), high elevation snowfall, and small wildfires—all can occur during summer in Southeast Alaska, but are rare. Juneau averages one thunderstorm every two years. Locations such as Yakutat, Sitka, and Ketchikan average two thunderstorms per year. Lightning is more common over the mountains.

The safest time for navigating the waterways of Southeast Alaska is May through July. Gales (34-47 knot winds) are rare due to relatively weak weather fronts. Extreme tidal currents and cold waters usually represent the major hazards to summer mariners. Daily tides can fluctuate over 20' in Southeast Alaska and water temperatures generally stay below 60°F. In August, storm systems tend to get stronger and gales occur more frequently. These storms often move in fast and catch the ill-prepared by surprise. Even on sunny days, light winds combined with cooler air temperatures over water make jackets a good idea. Whether you are hiking the backcountry or kayaking one of our pristine fjords, monitoring the weather forecast is a must!

During the record hot summer of 2004, Juneau had an incredible 42 days with high temperatures of 70° or more! Juneau also experienced a record 7 days with thunderstorms.

● **Juneau**

● **Sitka**

Little Port Walter, southern Baranof Island, received 10.34" of rain on August 13, 1955 — highest one-day summer total for Southeast Alaska!

● **Little Port Walter**

● **Petersburg**

The wettest summer for Ketchikan occurred in 2001 when 57.12" of rain fell from May through August. That is 20" more than Seattle averages in a year!

● **Wrangell**

● **Ketchikan**



Art Puustinen
NOAA/NWS

LOCATIONS CHOSEN

This pamphlet contains weather and climate information based on observations in Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, and Yakutat. Weather data from these cities represent the climatic variation across Southeast Alaska caused by its complex geography. Because of the geographical coverage referenced by these sites, as well as the varying terrain, information tallied from those cities encompasses the most indicative data for those curious about the summer climate of Southeast Alaska as a whole.