



Climate



Voyageurs Has A Variable Climate

The weather at Voyageurs National Park varies greatly from season to season, day to day, and sometimes hour to hour. Visitors must be prepared for a range of temperatures and wet or dry weather at any time of year. The nearby town of International Falls holds the record for both the greatest annual range of temperatures in the region (152° F), and the monthly range (114° F for March). Temperature changes of 50 to 60° F within a few days occur in most years.



Sun and Snow

Situated on the Canadian border on the weather side of the great land mass extending to the Arctic, the Voyageurs National Park area is subject to frequent outbreaks of continental polar air throughout most of the year.

The polar air is tempered to mildness during June, July, and August, when the land and lake areas to the north and northwest are warmed daily by 16 hours of intense sunshine. Then the effects of pressure disturbances are weak, often stagnant, and periods of fine, mild weather prevail, interspersed by days or nights of showers and occasional three or four days of cloudy, rainy weather as a weak, slowly moving low-pressure center exerts its influence.

The shield of small lakes covering up to 30% of the area to the north and northwest supplies a good deal of the moisture for late afternoon and evening showers and stores heat that tempers the southward flow of cold air during September and October. This results in a lag of temperatures behind maximum solar heating, and prolongs the fall season from mid-August to early November.

Fresh outbreaks of cold air take their toll, however, and in late November the water surfaces turn to ice.

The snow cover spreads from north and west to cover the park throughout the long, cold winter until the break-up in early May. During December, January, and February, temperatures fall below zero on most days and occasionally fail to rise above zero for a week or more.

The wide expanse of snow and thick ice requires much heat for its melting, prolonging winter so that the transition to summer is rapid after the spring thaw. Spring lasts only about a month.

The frost-free season averages 107 days from June to mid-September. Late winter ice thickness varies from 15 to 36 inches.

Annual precipitation (rain and snow) averages 25-28 inches in the park, and increases from west to east. The major source of precipitation is moist air from the Gulf of Mexico during the summer, when about 40%-45% of precipitation falls and most lightning occurs.

Average snowfall ranges from 55 to 70 inches, but is highly variable. The first measurable snowfall occurs by late October in most years, and the last in late April or early May.

**Average
Temperatures
and Precipitation**

Prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Month	Average High °F	Average Low °F	Precipitation in Inches
January	11.9	-10.4	.9
February	20.9	-5.0	.7
March	32.1	8.9	1.1
April	49.1	27.0	1.6
May	63.1	37.9	2.5
June	73.6	49.1	4.0
July	78.7	53.7	4.4
August	76.1	51.1	2.9
September	61.8	41.3	3.1
October	53.9	33.2	1.9
November	33.3	17.6	2.4
December	18.7	-0.3	1.0