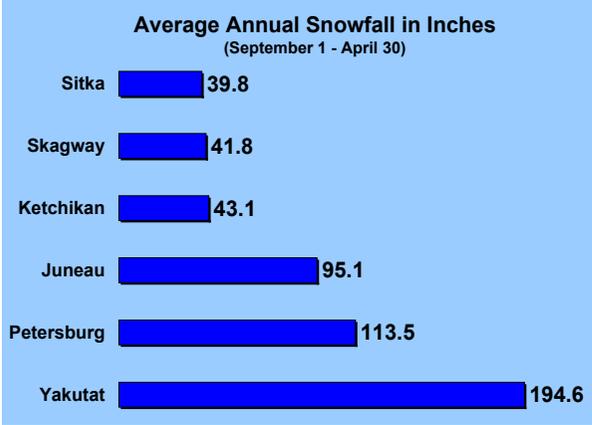


WINTER CLIMATE GUIDE TO SOUTHEAST ALASKA

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



Days between September 1st and May 1st when:

All time lowest temperatures

Canyon Island	January 29, 1996	-28°
Yakutat	December 30, 1964	-24°
Skagway	February 2, 1947	-24°
Juneau	January 12, 1972	-22°
Petersburg	February 2, 1968	-15°
Ketchikan	January 24, 1916	-8°
Sitka	February 1, 1917	-4°

Greatest snowfall in one day

Haines	February 1, 1991	38"
Juneau	January 10, 1972	31"
Yakutat	March 11, 1960	30"
Ketchikan	January 14, 1911	24"
Skagway	February 6, 1993	23"
Petersburg	January 18, 1971	18"
Sitka	December 17, 1961	15"

NOTE: The data provided is obtained from recorded weather data for each location. Each location has slightly different periods of record for their climate data. Data for Juneau begins in 1890, Ketchikan in 1948, Petersburg in 1940, Sitka in 1900, Skagway in 1949, and Yakutat in 1948.

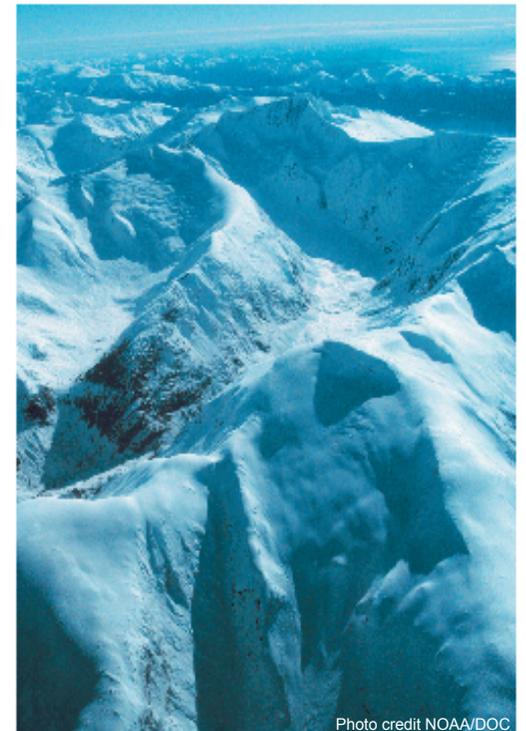
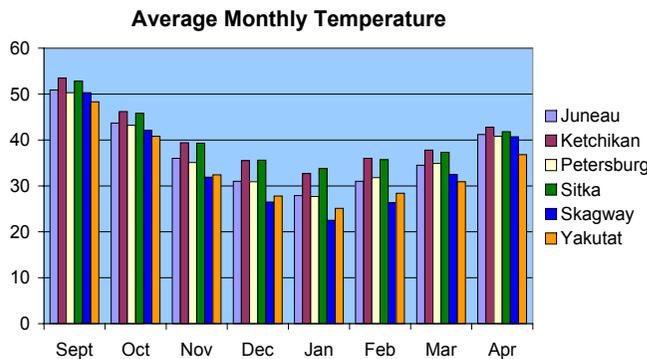
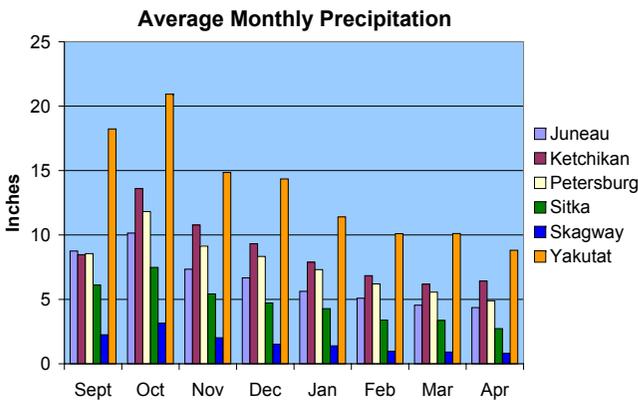
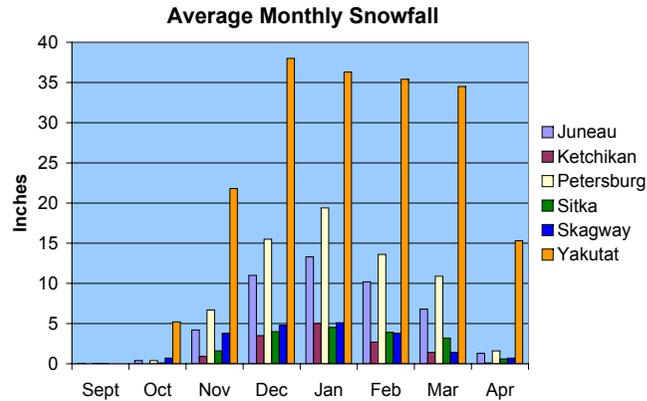


Photo credit NOAA/DOC

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 Alaska Weather Line:
 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(907) 886-3241
 Juneau(907) 790-6800
 Yakutat(907) 784-3322



(800) 472-0391
pajk.arh.noaa.gov

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 sites encompasses the most indicative data for those curious about the winter climate of Southeast Alaska as a whole.

Skagway fact: On February 2, 1947 the temperature dropped to a bone chilling -24°.

Juneau fact: Although unofficial, wind speeds reached 223 mph at the south end of Salisbury Ridge, just south of downtown Juneau on January 8, 1975.



“Taku” winds blow down the steep slopes of Salisbury Ridge near the mouth of the Taku River and hit Douglas with full force. Occurring an average of four times a year between October and April, Taku’s are strong enough to lift roofs off and toss about 10,000 pound freight containers. The damage caused by the Taku’s can be devastating.

Yakutat

Skagway

Haines

On average, the Juneau Icefield receives 100 feet of snow each year.

Juneau

Yakutat fact: A record seasonal snowfall occurred the winter of 1975-76 with a total accumulation of 402.8”. That’s over 33 feet!



National Park Service photo - Hubbard Glacier

Freezing spray is a water marine hazard in Southeast Alaska. Freezing spray occurs when strong winds and very cold air temperatures combine to cause ice build-up on ships. Significant icing can sink smaller vessels by creating a weight imbalance or making vessels too heavy to remain afloat.



Photo by Ursula Jones

Petersburg fact: Starting February 4, 1972 it snowed on 18 consecutive days.

Gap Winds

The term “gap winds” refers to locally strong winds accelerating through gaps in terrain. In Southeast Alaska, gap winds commonly occur in the winter at the mouths of large rivers such as the Taku and Stikine. Gap winds are generally caused when there is a large pressure difference across a range of mountains.

Gap Types



The COMET Program

Sitka fact: The winter season of 1987-88 produced only 5 inches of snow. The average annual snowfall is 18.3 inches.

Sitka

Petersburg

Wrangell

Winter time precipitation in Southeast Alaska falls in many forms. Examples include rain, snow, sleet, and freezing rain. Sleet is small pieces of ice that bounce when they hit the ground. Freezing rain falls as liquid but freezes upon impact with the ground and exposed objects.

Ketchikan



Photograph by Rick Grafe - Courtesy www.sitnews.us

Ketchikan fact: The latest snowfall occurred on June 26, 1902, when almost one inch fell.

The source of this material is the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET®) Website at <http://meted.ucar.edu/> of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), funded by the National Weather Service. ©1997-2004, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. All Rights Reserved.