

Behaviour

CAREFUL, UNPREDICTABLE !

Give space to the bears as they prefer to avoid humans. However, this natural avoidance can be replaced by an aggressive behavior for the following reasons:

- It has been surprised;
- It protects its cubs;
- It protects his food;
- Follows your dog back to you;
- It feels stuck;
- It overcame his natural fear of humans;



The bear may seem to move slowly or ignore you, but its behavior remains unpredictable and dangerous. Stay away to be safe at all times.

Contacts

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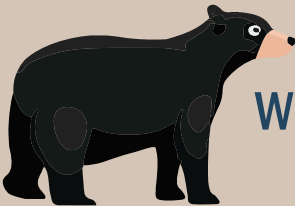
Wilde Life

Uumajuit - Game Wardens, MFFP Northern Quebec, Kuujjuaq
1-866-237-2442
819-964-2791
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Avoid attractive items for bears

Bears are omnivorous and opportunistic, the list of items attractive for bears will surprise you:

- Bird seeds and peanuts;
- Garbages and food;
- Crockery, pots, pans;
- Cooler, even empty;
- Gaz;
- Toiletries and cosmetics;



WHILE CAMPING

Eliminate all odors on your body and at your camp.

Cook away from your tent and make sure there are no drinks, food or toiletries in your tent. Make sure that your sleeping bag, your tent and the clothes you wear to sleep do not smell of food.

Store food and waste away from your tent in a bear-proof area (bear-proof containers and food caches).

Bring back your trash. Do not burn or bury them.

Clean and store your dishes and utensils immediately after meals with a biodegradable soap. Filter and discard the water from the dishes in designated areas (hole in the ground or round of fire). Discard the filtered solids in the trash.

Throw the entrails of fish into the deep end of a high-flow lake / river and not along the banks.

ANYTIME

Store garbage / recycling, food and other strong odor items in bear-proof areas.
Clean your dishes thoroughly after each use.



In Nunavik

In Nunavik, Inuit call the black bear *atsak* in inuktitut. Although Inuit do not consume black bear meat, fur was and still is, used for clothing or camp insulation. Teeth are even used as amulets, necklaces or as works of art.



Black Bear Country

Safety Information



If you encounter a bear

Do not come close to a bear: leave wild animals the space they need

1 THE BEAR NOTICED YOU

- Stay calm and speak slowly to the bear using a firm voice
- Put your back pack on top of your head to look more intimidating
- If you are with young kids, carry them in your arms and stay close together
- Go slowly away from its path and don't take your eyes from the bear

2 THE BEAR KEEPS FOLLOWING YOU, STANDS UP, NOSE IN THE AIR

- The bear wants to know what you are
- Continue to talk with a firm voice. That will show the bear you are human and not a prey
- If it comes closer than 50 m, take out your bear banger and aim for its eyes, activate. If the bear doesn't leave, take out your bear spray and aim for the eyes. Only activate the bear spray at 8 meter minimum distance (the length of an bus)

3 THE BEAR ATTACKS

- If the bear is feeding, if it protects its cub or if you surprise the bear, you will be considered as a threat
- Throw yourself on the ground and play dead, cross your hands at the back of your neck to protect your head, face and neck. Spray your legs so it is more difficult for the bear to turn you over
- Play dead and don't move until the bear is gone for good

4 THE ATTACK KEEPS ON GOING

- It is possible that the bear is not just in defend mode but is treating you as a prey
- It is time to defend yourself: scream ! Hit its nose with a branch or rock, do everything you can to demonstrate you are not an easy prey



Avoid bear encounter

Move in the trails as a group

If possible, never walk alone, move as a group and don't ever let your kids away from you.

Make noise

Let the bears know you are there. Always speak lowly, clap hands or sing - especially near rivers or creaks, dense vegetation zones, zones where berries are abundant, areas exposed to strong winds and where visibility is low. Studies show that the sounds of bells are not sufficient to keep bears away.

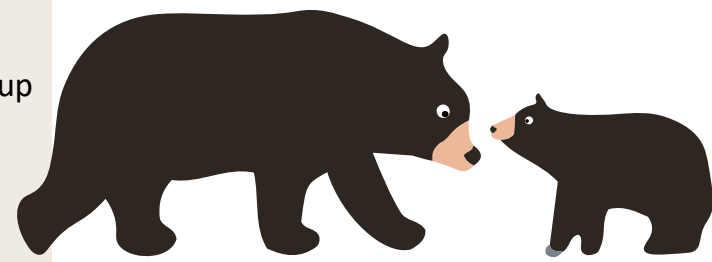
Be vigilant to the signs

If you see fresh tracks, feces, newly dug earth, that indicate the close presence of the bear, be vigilant, make your presence known and think of an alternate route.

If you find along your way dead animals, be extremely cautious and tell Park or Game wardens what you found.

Preservation zones

To protect the unique features of our Parks and to help us keep you safe, please respect the preservation and the extreme preservation zones.



DON'Ts



- Scream and make sudden moves** which could trigger an attack;
- Turn your back and runaway**, because bears will easily outrun you. Black bears can run as fast as 50km/h;
- Drop your back pack on the ground**, you could need it to protect yourself;
- Climb a tree or dive in the water**, since black bears climb and swim way better than us;
- Throw the bear some food** which will only lead to attract the bear more;
- Play dead before the bear attacks**, the bear's curiosity will drive it to you even more;

DOs



- Tell a park or game warden if you see a bear ;**
- Make your presence known** when you are on the move;
- Leave the bear space** to continue on its way;
- Manage properly any odor item that could attract bears ;**