

Prevent human-bear conflicts

In a vehicle



- Stay in your vehicle.
- Keep a distance of at least 100 m, about the length of 7 school buses.
- Drive slowly and do not block other traffic.

Viewing and taking pictures

- Use binoculars or spotting scopes and long telephoto lenses when taking photos. Avoid flash photography which can disturb bears.
- Avoid noises or actions that might stress bears (barking dogs, loud talking and laughing, diesel engines).
- Do not call out or whistle to attract the bear's attention for a photo. If a feeding bear is constantly looking up to see what the disturbance is, you are interrupting their feeding time and consequently their long term survival. It is not just about the one time you are there trying to get your photo; it is the cumulative effect of everyone's actions.

Walking and hiking

- Stay on designated trails.
- Keep a safe distance (100 m/yds or about the length of 7 school buses).
- Learn to recognize the alarm signals and behaviours of bears indicating that you are too close (as noted under "Bear Talk").
- Be predictable. Unpredictable actions might stress bears and cause a defensive response.
- Always try to hike during daylight hours and in a group. There is no record of a bear attacking a large group of people.
- Talk or sing to alert bears of your presence so they have an opportunity to retreat.
- Put the iPod away and pay attention to your surroundings.
- If in a group, do not surround the bear. Always allow the bear an avenue of escape.
- Keep dogs on a leash and under control at all times.
- Stay alert and watch for bears and bear signs. Tracks, trampled vegetation or scat are all signs that bears may be nearby. Be especially alert where bear foods (e.g. berries) are abundant. Avoid animal carcasses, as bears often defend a valuable food cache.
- **NEVER** feed a bear or leave food or garbage around. When a bear makes the link between food and people, they become a danger and may have to be killed.

Practice prevention and show respect for bears.

Never feed bears. It is unsafe, illegal and often leads to disaster for animals if they continue to seek human food sources. If you see someone feeding a bear or to report a human-bear conflict, call:
1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) or # 7277 on your cell.

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The **Get Bear Smart Society** is a registered Canadian charity that strives to help people and bears safely and respectfully coexist wherever their homes and ranges overlap.

To learn more about living with bears, visit us online at getbearsmart.com or email info@bearsmart.com.



With generous support from:



Photos: Sylvia Dolson

Bear Viewing Guide



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