

People and Bears *can* Live Together

Whistler is located in prime black bear habitat.

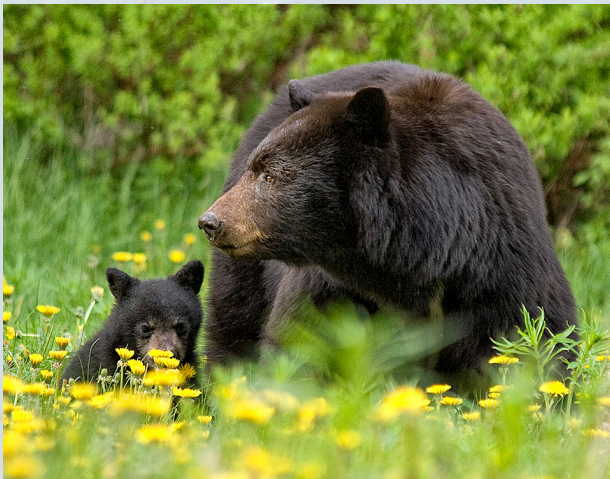
Whether you are walking along the Valley Trail, hiking or biking any one of the many trails, you may encounter a black bear.

Bears are most active from mid-March to November, but many remain active during winter months if artificial foods are available. Their constant search for new food sources may draw them into Whistler's urban areas, often crossing busy roads and pedestrian areas.

Seeing a bear in its natural habitat can be a memorable experience. Please respect and help protect our bears while keeping yourself safe and free from conflict.

If you encounter a bear on the roadside, do not get out of your vehicle, even for a quick photo. Bears easily become habituated to people. To keep bears wild, we need to ensure they don't lose their natural instinct to avoid humans.

Be BEAR SMART: follow the simple guidelines in this brochure to ensure any encounters with bears are positive and free from conflict.



While in Bear Country...

The best thing to do is avoid an encounter

Avoiding encounters

- Make noise. Use your voice to let the bear know you're there.
- Look for fresh bear activity; fresh scat, tree scratches, ripped apart logs, day beds.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times.
- Travel in groups.
- Never approach a bear. Maintain a distance of at least 100 meters. (10 bus lengths)
- Pack out what you pack in.

If you do encounter a bear

- Remain calm. Do not run.
- Do not approach the bear.
- Back away slowly while watching the bear to make sure it isn't following you.
- You may identify yourself as human by talking in a calm tone of voice.

For more information,
visit www.bearsmart.com
or call 604.905.BEAR (2327)

RAPP

**Report All Poachers
and Polluters**

Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
cell: #7277



rapp.bc.ca

Conservation
Officer Service

get
BEAR
SMART
society

Camping



in Bear Country

photos courtesy of Sylvia Dolson



Bear
aware



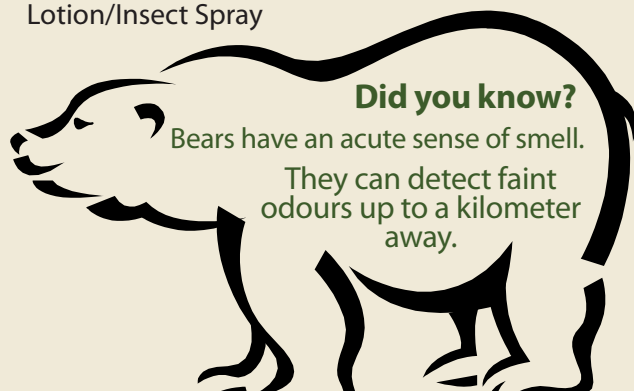


Always be alert and aware in Bear Country

What Attracts Bears?

Anything that has an odour or could be considered food may attract wildlife to your site.

- Coolers - full/empty
- Food and Condiments
- Garbage/Wrappings/Plastic Bags
- Dishes/Pots
- Pet Food/Bowls
- Bottles/Cans: full & empty
- Tablecloths
- Toiletries/Suntan Lotion/Insect Spray
- Camp Stoves & Barbecues
- Containers of Gasoline/Oil
- ANY items associated with food preparation or clean up (soap, dish clothes, towels, & clothing worn while cooking.
- Grey Water Pails



Did you know?

Bears have an acute sense of smell. They can detect faint odours up to a kilometer away.

"Bare Campsite" Rules

Follow these rules whenever these items are not in use or whenever your campsite is unattended for any length of time i.e. at night or when going for a hike, swim or to the washroom.

Reduce odours that attract bears

1. Store ALL FOOD and WILDLIFE ATTRACTANTS in a hard-sided vehicle/trailer/motor home or, if provided, in the animal-proof facilities at campground (not in a tent) when not in use.
2. Do not take food into your tent, not even a snack.
3. Use the designated grey water disposal grates; do not dispose of grey water into the environment.
4. Keep your fire pit clean and free of food residue.



Keep your pet on a leash at all times

- Do not leave pets unattended outside especially at night. They may attract dangerous wildlife.

An "at risk" campsite.



The attractants in this site include a camp stove, full cooler, drink bottles, citronella bug spray, and an open bag of candy.

A "bare" campsite.



When away from your site, you may leave out camping furniture (eg: lawn chairs, lanterns, and tents)

For more information, visit www.bearsmart.com or call 604.905.BEAR (2327)