Whistler is BEAR Country

Bears deserve RESPECT in their home

It’s not unusual to see a bear in Whistler – in fact, they are an integral part of Whistler Valley life. As a community, we are committed to peaceful coexistence with bears. We understand that it’s normal for bears to wander through the valley because it has been built in the midst of prime Black bear habitat. We also understand that in order to prevent human-bear conflicts, it is essential that bears not have access to human food and garbage. Please help us to protect people and keep bears wild by picking up after yourself. Bear-proof garbage containers are provided in Whistler’s public areas for your convenience.

For your safety, please:

• Be alert and bear aware!
• Do not approach or crowd bears.
  Keep a safe distance (100 metres / 325 ft.).
• Do NOT feed bears. It is against the law!

If you encounter a bear:

• Remain calm.
• Stand your ground.
• Speak in a non-threatening tone.
  Slowly back away.

For more information, pick up our BEAR SMART Whistler Visitor’s Guide at your hotel or the Visitor Info Centre.

Call 604-905-BEAR (2327) to report any human-bear conflicts.

getbearsmart.com

Do you understand bear language?
Bears use body language and vocalizations to show their intentions. This bear has seen the photographer and is standing up to get a better look and to sniff the wind. If someone gets too close, a bear will huff (expel air loudly), clack its teeth or slap the ground. Be respectful. Heed the warning and back away!

Do you think bears are slow-moving?
Think again. Bears are fast! They can run at speeds of 50 feet per second – that’s faster than an Olympic sprinter or race horse.

Photographs: Sylvia Dolson  Design/graphics: Jennifer McKim Stone, blackcatstudio@telus.net  Illustration: Evelyn Kirkaldy