

Welcome to Bear Country!

Encountering a bear can be both thrilling and intimidating, making it crucial to know how to stay safe.

This guide is designed to help you navigate bear habitats whilst prioritizing both your safety and the well-being of bears.

While most encounters can be avoided, it's important to be prepared for the possibility.



It's important to plan your visit before you leave

- ✔ Consult reliable sources like the U.S. Forest Service, your state's Fish and Wildlife Department, or local authorities for accurate, up-to-date information and guidelines specific to the area you plan to visit.
- ✔ Ensure that bear attractants, such as food, pet or livestock feed, are stored in bear-proof containers, and pack additional bear-proof containers to store any waste.
- ✔ Pack safety equipment such as bear spray and a bear bell. Check with the local authorities to see if bear spray is permitted in your location.
- ✔ Set up your **Gallagher Bear Protection Fencing Kit** at home before your trip to ensure an easy setup at your destination.

Considerations for Campsites



- Choose a Safe Campsite: Set up camp away from trails and dense vegetation.
- Cook and Eat Away from Sleeping Area: Keep your cooking and food storage area at least 330 feet (100 meters) away from your tent.
- Keep a Clean Camp: Dispose of waste properly, and do not leave food scraps behind.

Respect Wildlife and Their Habitat



- Observe from a Distance: Use binoculars or a zoom lens for close-up views.
- Do Not Feed Bears: Feeding bears can lead to aggressive behavior and is illegal in many areas.
- Report Sightings: Let park rangers or local authorities know if you encounter a bear, especially if it shows signs of aggression.

Learn more

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Staying Safe in Bear Country

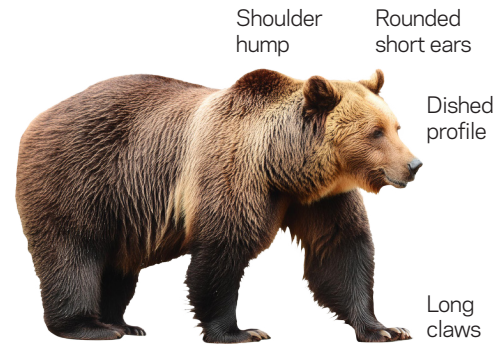


Know your Bear

Do not seek out encounters with bears!
If you do encounter one, it's crucial to distinguish between a Black Bear and a Grizzly bear, as your reaction should vary depending on the species.

Grizzly Bear

Grizzly bears are often recognized by their prominent shoulder hump, concave facial profile, smaller ears, and larger claws.



Black Bear

Black bears typically have a straighter facial profile, larger pointed ears, no visible shoulder hump, and smaller claws.



Color and size can be unreliable distinguishing features, as black bears can range from black to cinnamon, and even white. Similarly, grizzly bears can vary in color, from dark brown or black to light blond.

Bear Safety



Stay Alert

Be aware of your surroundings and look for signs of bears, such as tracks, scat, or claw marks on trees. Avoid hiking alone and stick to established trails.

Make Noise

Bears are less likely to approach if they hear you coming. Talk loudly, clap or use bear bells.



Carry Bear Spray

Keep bear spray accessible and know how to use it properly. Check with the local authorities to see if bear spray is permitted in your location.

Secure Your Food

Use bear-proof containers and never leave food unattended.
Store food away from your campsite, such as in a bear-proof locker.

Food items

Food items include any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as:

- Canned goods
- Bottles
- Drinks
- Soaps
- Cosmetics and toiletries
- Trash
- Ice chests (even when empty, and certified as bear resistant)
- Unwashed meal prep or dining items.

What to do in a Bear Encounter



If You See a Bear

- Stay calm and do not run.
- If the bear sees you, it may stand up to see what you are. Slowly wave your arms and speak gently while backing away, most encounters end this way.
- Do not approach, even if the bear seems calm.



If a Bear Approaches

- Stand your ground and prepare your bear spray.
- Make yourself look larger by holding out your arms or a jacket.
- Do not turn your back or run, as this may trigger a chase.

If a Bear Attacks

In the unlikely event that a bear attacks, identify the bear species.

Grizzly Bear

Play dead.

Lie flat on your stomach, protect your neck, and remain still.

Black Bear

Fight back.

Use any available object to defend yourself.