

Bear Facts

- Black bears can vary in colour from black, brown, blonde, to cinnamon.
- Opportunistic omnivores; diet consists of 10-15% meat and 80-85% vegetation.
- Eyesight is good and they can see in colour.
- Sense of smell is 10x stronger than a bloodhounds.
- Will stand on their back legs to better identify what is in front of them.
- Can run as fast as 50km/hr or 15m/second and can change direction quickly.
- Strong swimmers.
- Highly curious and intelligent.
- Have adapted to live within urban environments.
- Born wild and wary of humans but soon become habituated to human activity.
- Can live to 25 years in the wild.

For more information:
www.squamish.ca
or call 604.815.5066

Resource:
Ministry of Environment website:
www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos

Photo Credits:
M. Allen, M. Kerford-Toom, C. Arnott,
J. Siderius, B. Speidel

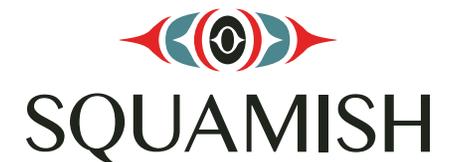
For all wildlife sightings and encounters:

RAPP
Report All Poachers and Polluters
Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)
cell: #7277

 BRITISH COLUMBIA rapp.bc.ca  Conservation Officer Service

Wildlife in Squamish

Bears



Bears

Squamish is located in prime bear habitat. Whether you are spending time recreating within one of our many Provincial Parks, swimming in one of our many lakes or hiking & biking in our extensive trail network, you can expect to encounter bears.

Bears are most active between March and November but can be seen over the winter months if non-natural food is available.

Seeing a bear in its natural habitat can be a memorable experience, but please keep our bears wild by following these simple guidelines.



At Home



- Ensure all garbage is locked and inaccessible to bears.
- Manage all outdoor attractants i.e. hang birdfeeders out of reach, maintain an odourless compost, clean barbeques and feed pets indoors.
- Harvest your fruit trees and never let fruit rot on the ground.



Bear Encounters

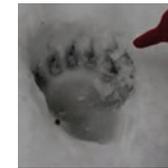
- Stay calm and do NOT run.
- Never turn your back on wildlife.
- Back away and give the bear space.
- Talk calmly.
 - Avoid eye contact.
 - Have deterrent ready and know how to use it.

On the Trails

- Avoid surprise encounters by making noise i.e. use your voice.
- Be alert and aware and look for bear signs i.e. fresh bear scat, claw marks on trees, ripped apart logs, turned over rocks and boulders.
- Keep dogs leashed.
- Pack out what you pack in.



Black bears are excellent climbers and will leave claw marks on trees when climbing. Bears will also scratch, bite and rub against trees as a way to mark their territory.



Bears are plantigrade, or flat footed. They have five toes with claws that are not retractable; grizzly bear claws are longer and are usually more visible than a black bears.



Bears will rip apart rotten logs to access insects like carpenter ants and their larvae.



Fresh scat could indicate that a bear is near-by so make some noise and avoid surprise encounters.