

# Camping in Bear Country

Squamish is located in prime bear habitat.

Whether you are camping within one of our many parks or recreating within our vast network of trails, you may encounter a bear.

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

If you encounter a bear on the roadside, do not stop 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 these simple "Camping in Bear Country" guidelines to ensure any encounters with bears are positive and free from conflict.

For more information,  
contact the Wildlife Coordinator  
at [mtoom@squamish.ca](mailto:mtoom@squamish.ca)

604.815.5066



# While in Bear Country...

## Avoiding encounters

- Avoid surprise encounters. Make noise by using your voice.
- Look for fresh bear activity; fresh scat, tree scratches, ripped apart logs, day beds.
- Keep dogs on leash.
- Travel in groups.
- Never approach a bear.
- Pack out what you pack in.

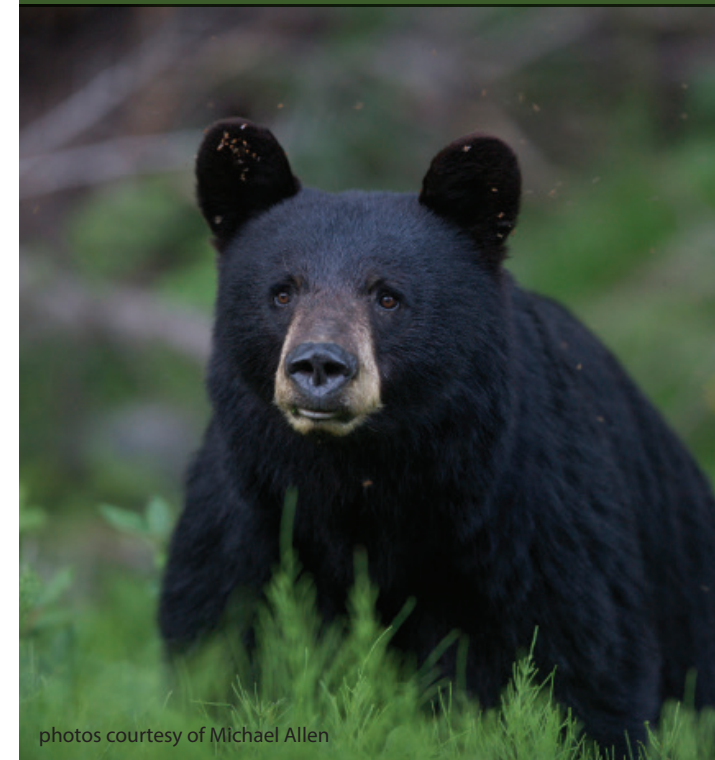
## If you do encounter a bear

- Remain calm.
- Do NOT run. Do NOT turn your back on the bear.
- Back away slowly. Give the bear space to escape.
- Do not approach the bear.
- Talk in a calm tone of voice.

For all wildlife sightings and encounters:



# Camping



photos courtesy of Michael Allen

## in Bear Country





# 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.

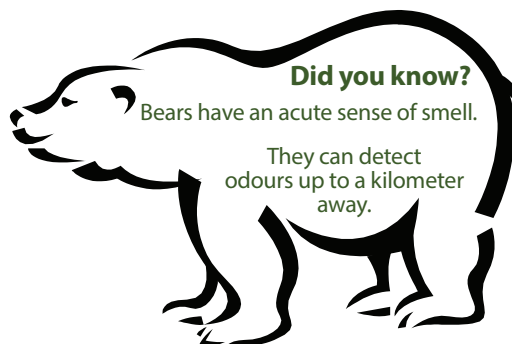
- Coolers - full/empty
- Food and Condiments
- Garbage/ Wrappings/ Plastic Bags
- Dishes/Pots
- Pet Food/Bowls
- Bottles/Cans: full & empty
- Toiletries/Suntan Lotion/Insect Spray
- Camp Stoves & Barbecues
- Containers of Gasoline/Oil
- Grey Water Pails
- ANY items associated with food preparation or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

## “Bare Campsite” Rules

Follow these rules 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. Do not burn garbage or food in firepit.



### 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)

Please report any bear sightings to the Conservation Officer Service 24/7 Hotline: 1.877.952.7277 (RAPP)