You are in bear country, so there’s a good chance you’ll see black bears here, even if you never go into the woods.

**BearWise Vacation Tips**

**Don’t Feed the Bears**

- Don’t leave food, trash or pet food outdoors when no one is around. A few seconds is all it takes for a hungry bear to swipe it.
- Feeding bears or using food to encourage bears to approach you is often illegal and always dangerous.
- Don’t throw scraps or leftovers out the car window or into the woods behind your vacation rental.
- If trash container or dumpster is full, don’t pile trash outside; take it with you when you leave.

**Bear Viewing Guidelines**

- Stay in your vehicle; even bears that seem comfortable around people are still wild animals.
- Never approach bears or entice them to approach you.
- Enjoy bears from a safe distance. Stay at least 50 yards or 10 car lengths away.
- Don’t block the road to view bears. If permitted, pull over and take photos from the safety of your vehicle.

_If you want to see bears, early morning and early evening are good times for viewing and photography._

**Driving in Bear Country**

- Stay alert, stick to the speed limit and scan the roadsides. If a bear crosses the road, watch for cubs before you drive on.
- Be especially alert at dawn and dusk when bears are most active; black bears are fast and hard to see.
- If you hit a bear, don’t try to help it. Call 911 or report to authorities as soon as you can.

_Wildlife collisions are not always covered by insurance._

**Dogs and bears don’t mix. Keep your dog on a leash at all times when outdoors.** Letting your dog approach or lunge at a bear puts you and your pet in danger.

**Discourage Break-Ins**

- Lock vehicles; don’t leave windows open even a crack. Remove anything with an odor (food, drinks, trash, pet food, scented products).
- Keep exterior doors closed, even when you’re there.
- Don’t stash food, beverages, trash or recycling on porches/patios/decks.

**If You See a Black Bear**

- If a bear comes around your place, try to scare it away by making lots of noise yelling or banging pots and pans together from a safe distance.
- If you see a bear near a dumpster or in a building, don’t approach or corner it. Give the bear an escape route.

**In the Woods**

- Carry bear spray and know how to use it.
- _If you see a bear before it notices you_, don’t approach. Stand still, enjoy, then quietly move away.
- _If a bear sees you_, back away slowly. Never run; running may trigger a chase response.
- _If a bear approaches_, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell “Hey Bear” until it leaves. Always stay with your group. If it keeps approaching, use bear spray.
- _If a black bear makes contact with you_, do NOT play dead; fight back aggressively.

Don’t leave food, trash or pet food out outdoors when no one is around. A few seconds is all it takes for a hungry bear to swipe it.

**Learn More:**

BearWise.org

_Helping People Live Responsibly with Black Bears_

BearWise® CREATED BY BEAR BIOLOGISTS, SUPPORTED BY STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES

© 2021