

BEST PRACTICES FOR ENJOYING AREAS WHERE BEARS LIVE



Photo: Norm Lee

KEEP BEARS IN MIND

THE NORTH SHORE IS BEAR COUNTRY

Black bears live, rest, and raise cubs in the forest - this is their home. Coexistence with these peaceful animals is possible if we learn about their behaviour and how to respond during an encounter, as well as taking steps to secure food.

Expect to see bears during the day. Bears are most active from March to late December, but you could see one over late winter. Increased human and dog activity allows little time for bears to forage and rest without interruption. As intelligent animals, they are adapting. Bears aim to avoid close encounters with people, but do not expect them to run away; they are not fearful. Always give bears lots of personal space.

Feeding bears is illegal. Bears that find food and garbage from humans are often killed - including cubs. Never leave food unattended.

IF YOU MEET A BEAR

Stay calm

Talk to the bear in a calm voice

Slowly distance yourself



ALWAYS

- Use your voice to avoid a surprise encounter
- Be loud and call out often if biking, running or traveling close to water
- Be aware of surroundings
- Avoid wearing headphones
- Keep pets on a close leash
- Keep food and packs within reach at all times
- Take all garbage/food scraps home. Only use bear-proof containers
- Respect bears' personal space and never approach
- Carry bear spray. Have it immediately accessible and know when and how to use it

