



Bears live everywhere in Yukon!

Plan ahead to reduce the chance of causing a negative encounter.



BE(AR)-WISE

tips for the

BACK COUNTRY

- Check conditions and park regulations before you go. Food storage requirements vary from park to park. Never hike in areas closed due to bear activity.
- Never feed wildlife by accident or on purpose.
- Keep your distance. Wildlife viewing can cause undue stress for wildlife and may be dangerous for humans who get close. Never approach wildlife.
- Garbage and human food are killer attractants for bears. Leave no trace! Pack out all food, garbage, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products and store all of these things in bear resistant containers.
- Leave dogs at home or keep them on-leash. Dogs can attract bears to your camp or chase a bear toward other people.

Travel tips

Travel in groups and make human sounds. Do not count on bear bells and horns to deter bears. They may attract a curious bear.

Be extra alert and noisy when visibility is poor (thick bush, bad weather, windy trail etc.).

Carry bear spray, have it at the ready and know how to use it. Do not let it freeze, replace when it expires & keep it handy when you are in the tent.

Give bears LOTS of space. Watch for scat, prints and other signs of wildlife. Pick another route if you see a bear.

Choose the shady side of the river for camping. Berries and bears like the sunny side.

There is no reliable evidence that bears are attracted to or prone to attacking menstruating women. Using a Diva cup may help minimize odors and reduce waste that needs to be packed out. Never leave used menstrual products behind or try to burn them.

Camp tips

Avoid camping where there are signs of use by wildlife (dens, animal trails, fresh scat). Choose areas with good sight lines and audibility.

Sleep upwind from cooking and food storage areas. Leave at least 50 m between each, more is better.

Store food, toiletries, fuel or anything else smelly at least 50 m from sleeping areas.

Avoid cooking greasy or smelly foods like bacon and canned fish. Plan meals that don't have to be cooked.

Store cooking clothes with your food.

Keep a clean camp. Garbage, firepits, fuel, cooking gear, pet food, fishing/hunting gear and toiletries all attract bears.

Carry and store all attractants in certified bear resistant containers at all times.

Consider bringing portable electric fencing for tent and food areas.