

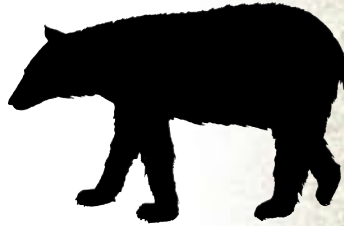
Bears

Glacier Bay National Park is home to brown (grizzly) bears, *Ursus arctos*, and black bears, *Ursus americanus*. Black bears are found primarily in the forested regions near the mouth of the bay, including Bartlett Cove, while brown bears live mainly in the more open regions closer to the glaciers.

Telling the difference between the two species can be tricky. Simply looking at color doesn't help. Black bears can be black, brown, blonde, even blue-gray—as is the case of the rare color phase found in Southeast Alaska called the “glacier bear.” Brown bears can be any shade from honey blonde to black. A few key physical characteristics can help clarify which type of bear you have spotted:

Black Bears

- Straight facial profile
- No shoulder hump
- Prominent ears
- Short, curved claws
- 3 feet at the shoulder
- 125 to over 300 pounds



Brown Bears (also called “grizzlies”)

- “Dish-shaped” facial profile
- Prominent shoulder hump
- Long, straight claws
- 3.5 feet at the shoulder/up to 9 feet when standing on hind legs
- Average 500 to 1000 pounds



Fishing in Bear Country

- If a bear approaches while you have a fish on the line, cut the line.
- Clean fish in the river. Discard any fish remains in pieces in the mid-channel current.
- Keep your catch on you at all times in a backpack to allow for quick retreat from approaching bears.
- Never yield your catch or other food items.



Bears

Be a Smart Camper

Both campers and bears frequent the beaches of Glacier Bay. Bears only have six to eight months to acquire the calories and fat reserves needed for the entire year, and the shoreline is essential for food and travel. The following guidelines will minimize your disruption of bears and help keep them wild.

Cooking and storing food

- Cook and eat in the intertidal zone at least 100 yards from your tent and food storage area.
- Wash cooking gear in marine waters.
- Be prepared to quickly stow all food should a bear suddenly approach.
- Keep all food, trash, and other scented items in a bear-resistant food container (BRFC).
- At night, store BRFCs and clean cooking gear in brush or behind rocks away from animal trails 100 yards from camp, not in your boat.

Choosing a campsite

- Avoid areas with bear sign including an abundance of scat, animal trails, and chewed or clawed trees.
- Avoid active salmon streams.
- Store your kayak and pitch your tent clear of the beach.
- Select a site that would allow bears room to pass at high tide.

Control your gear

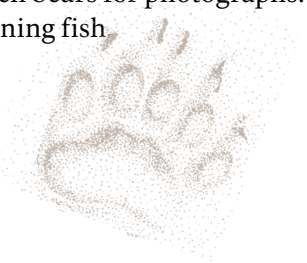
- Keep gear together. The more spread out your gear is the more difficult it is to defend.
- To minimize potential bear damage to gear, consider breaking down your campsite daily.

Be aware of what goes on around your campsite.

Be Bear Savvy

While walking, hiking or camping in Glacier Bay, you may encounter a bear. The vast majority of these encounters do not result in human injury or property damage. You can help prevent injury to yourself or to the bear by taking a few basic precautions.

- Be alert.
- Make noise, especially in wind or near rushing water.
- Choose routes that offer good visibility.
- Travel in groups of two or more.
- Keep your personal items and food within reach.
- Do not pursue or approach bears for photographs.
- Avoid streams with spawning fish.



When encountering humans, most bears will run away, approach curiously, appear to ignore the situation or act defensively. By staying alert, calm, and tailoring your reaction to the bear's behavior and species, you increase the odds of a positive outcome for both you and the bear.



If You See a Bear

The Bear	What You Can Do	
May or may not be aware of you	<i>What is your activity and degree of mobility?</i> <i>You are hiking or kayaking (mobile):</i> • Change your course to avoid bear. • Monitor bear's movement. • If bear is close, talk calmly to avoid surprising it.	<i>You are camping or eating (not mobile):</i> • Keep all gear under direct control. • Group together without blocking bear's route. • Talk calmly to make bear aware of you. • Stand your ground.
Moves toward you	• Monitor bear's movement. • Stand your ground and talk calmly. • Allow bear to pass peacefully.	
Becomes focused on you	• Stay together and stand your ground. • Be assertive and elevate your defense: clap your hands, wave your arms, use noisemakers, such as air horns or bang pots together.	
Charges	• Continue to stand your ground and look big. • Use pepper spray if you have it. • Few charges end in contact.	
Enters your tent	• Fight back.	
If a bear makes contact	• Fight back vigorously. • This is likely a predatory attack.	

If You Surprise a Bear

The Bear	What You Can Do
May react defensively and may snort, huff, pop its jaw, or charge	• Stand your ground and talk calmly to the bear. • Attempt to move away slowly.
Begins to follow you	• Stand your ground.
Charges	• Use pepper spray.
Is a brown bear and makes contact	• Play dead—lie flat, face down on the ground, and lace your fingers behind your head. Do not move.
Is a black bear and makes contact	• Fight back vigorously. • This is likely a predatory attack.