

# BLACK BEAR Facts

At Bryce Canyon, most of the black bears are actually light brown or blonde. The park estimates that 10 to 12 black bears use the park for some or all of the year.

Although they're carnivores, meat makes up less than 10% of a black bear's diet, and much of that is from scavenged carcasses; the rest of its diet is typically insects, nuts, berries, grasses and edible plants.

Black bears are not true hibernators. In cold climates, black bears sleep in dens through much of the winter because of a decreased food supply, but those that live in warm climates skip the winter napping.

Black bears live 25 years or more in the wild.

Average female black bear weighs 120-250 pounds.

Average male black bear weighs 180-300 pounds.

Black bears are extremely adaptable, occupying a greater range of habits than any bear in the world. In the US, they can be found in 41 states.



## What to Do If You Encounter a Black Bear

If you encounter a bear at Bryce Canyon, please notify a Park Ranger or report your sighting at the Visitor Center as soon as possible.

Black bears are shy and usually avoid contact with people, but encounters are possible. Remember these tips if you encounter a black bear.

**Don't Play Dead.** Pick up small children.

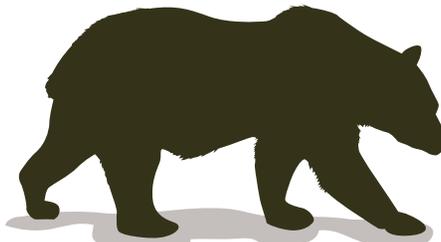
**Don't Climb a Tree.** Bears are excellent tree climbers.

**Don't Run.** Bears can run up to 35 mph. Back away from the bear and don't turn your back.

**Know Bear Behavior.** If a bear stands, grunts, woofs, moans or makes other sounds, it is not necessarily being aggressive. These are ways a bear gets a better look or smell, and expresses concern about a situation. Avoid direct eye contact, as the bear may consider this a threat.

**If a bear continues to approach you,** use bear spray if you have it.

**If the Bear Does Attack, FIGHT BACK.** People have successfully defended themselves with whatever is available, like rocks, sticks, backpacks, bottles, hands & feet.



Illustrations by Brian B. Roanhorse

## Visiting BLACK BEAR Country



Safety Tips for Dealing with Bears

# Safe Recreation in Bryce Canyon National Park

## Car camping at North or Sunset Campground

- Keep a very clean campsite.
- Stash your food and trash inside your vehicle.
- Wipe down picnic tables.
- Burn food off stoves and grills.
- Avoid scented toiletries.
- Always sleep inside your tent.
- Don't put anything in your tent that would attract a bear.
- Never feed wildlife!



**"THE AVERAGE BLACK BEAR INTELLEGENCE IS EQUALIVENT TO THE GERMAN SHEPHERD, WHICH IS ONE OF THE SMARTEST DOGS IN THE CANINE FAMILY."**

## Hiking in Bryce Canyon's Backcountry

- Hike at mid-day when bears are less active.
- Hike with a partner.
- Make noise as you travel, especially in areas of thick vegetation.
- Stay away from animal carcasses.
- Dogs are not allowed on any trail in Bryce Canyon (except service dogs).
- Keep children in the center of the group.
- Pack out your trash and clean up all foods scraps after meals and snack breaks.

## Backcountry Camping at Bryce Canyon

- Use bear-resistant canisters (available free with backcountry permits) to store all food and any items with a scent.
- Camping is permitted only in designated backcountry camping sites.
- Pack out all trash, including toilet paper and food scraps.
- Report any bear sightings to a Park Ranger upon leaving the backcountry.



Bear canisters are located at the Visitor Center Information Desk

