

Roadside Bears

Bears and roadsides are not a good combination. Bears feeding along roads quickly become habituated to vehicles and people. When people stop for a closer look or to take pictures, habituated bears become even bolder and may approach cars or people. Eventually, someone will feed a bear, creating a very dangerous situation that may lead to human injury and the bear's death.

The National Park Service wants to protect Glacier's bears and provide appropriate wildlife viewing. Please follow these guidelines if you see a bear along a road:

Please use pullouts when viewing bears and stay with your car. Do not pull off on the shoulder and create a "bear jam." The congestion of cars and people creates a dangerous situation for both bears and motorists.

Approaching wildlife is prohibited by law.

Obey area closures that are in place to protect bears.

Do not leave food, garbage, or coolers in the open bed of a truck or the exterior of any vehicle. Never feed a bear.

Use binoculars or telephoto lenses for safe viewing rather than getting too close to a bear.



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More in-depth information about bears can be found in the park newspaper and at www.nps.gov/glac

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For more information contact:

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BEARS



IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION INSIDE

ENJOY THEM AT A DISTANCE

Glacier National Park is home to thriving populations of both black bears and grizzly bears. These bears live throughout the park and can be encountered almost anywhere - on trails, along roadways, or in developed areas like campgrounds. The National Park Service needs your help in protecting the bears of Glacier. Your behavior has great consequences for the bears - their future is in your hands.

*Bears are alike in many ways and this makes some of their behavior predictable. But, each bear is also an individual with a unique life history. This individuality can lead to less predictable behavior and unique responses to various situations. The following guidelines work well for an "average bear," but remember that each bear has its own way of interacting with the world around it. **Note - People have been injured and killed by bears in Glacier National Park.***

Hiking in Bear Country

Make Noise

Bears don't like surprises and will usually move out of the way if they hear people approaching. Make plenty of noise, especially when approaching blind corners, dense shrubs and streams, and when walking into the wind. A loud shout every few minutes is more effective than wearing bear bells. Do not hike after dark.

Travel in a Group

If possible, never travel alone on park trails. Always keep your group together; be especially diligent in keeping children with you at all times.

Be Observant

If you see signs of recent bear activity (i.e., fresh diggings along the trail, bear scat, tracks), be especially vigilant. Consider going back the way you came; it is better to cut your hike short than to risk an encounter with a bear.



Be observant and make noise while hiking.

Camping with Bears

Odors attract bears. Our campgrounds and developed areas can remain "unattractive" to bears if each visitor properly manages food and garbage. Bears that obtain human food or garbage can become extremely dangerous. Please follow these guidelines to keep bears out of trouble:

Keep a clean camp. Improperly stored or unattended food will likely result in confiscation of items and/or issuance of a Violation Notice.

Inspect campsites for bear sign and for careless campers nearby. Please notify a park ranger of any potential problems.

Place all trash in bear-proof containers.

Pets, especially dogs, must be kept under physical restraint. Do not leave pet food out.

Immediately report all bear sightings to the nearest ranger.

