



Bear Safety in Alaska

Alaska Wilderness Safety & Hiking Guide

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ESSENTIAL SAFETY GUIDE -- READ BEFORE YOU HIKE IN ALASKA

BEAR COUNTRY

You are hiking in one of the highest bear-density regions on Earth

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Alaska is a wilderness unlike any other, home to a magnificent array of wildlife, including both black bears and brown bears (grizzlies). While encountering a bear in its natural habitat can be an awe-inspiring experience, it also carries inherent risks. For hikers venturing into Alaska's vast landscapes, understanding bear behavior, practicing stringent safety protocols, and being prepared for potential encounters is not merely advisable - it is essential for survival. This guide provides direct, clear, and potentially life-saving information to ensure you can safely enjoy the wilderness while minimizing risks.

Know Your Bears

Alaska is home to two main species of bears: black bears and brown bears (which

KEY CHECKLIST

Bear Safety Checklist -- Every Hike

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bear spray on hip (NOT in pack) | <input type="checkbox"/> Food stored in sealed containers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety clip removed before hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> No scented items (lotion, gum) in pockets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making noise every 30-60 seconds | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone charged + emergency contact set |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking in groups of 3+ when possible | <input type="checkbox"/> Told someone your trail plan + return time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avoided hiking at dawn/dusk near streams | <input type="checkbox"/> Downloaded offline map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Checked for fresh bear sign at trailhead | <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit packed |

QUICK REFERENCE

If charged: Stand your ground. Deploy spray at 60ft. Aim low. For grizzly: play dead if contact. For black bear: fight back. Never run.

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