

Be Bear Aware!

Our Bears And Guidelines For Encountering Bears At The Lodge



Seeing one of the approximately 300 to 500 black bears in Yosemite can evoke excitement, awe, and fear. Visitors who spot a bear sauntering across a meadow or eating berries in a forest should consider themselves lucky.

Black bears vary greatly in size--the largest black bear captured in Yosemite weighed 690 pounds, which is much larger than the typical male found here that usually weighs around 250 pounds. Bears weigh the most in fall when gorging on acorns and other seasonal foods. This enables them to gain fat and survive winter--consuming up to 20,000 calories a day. (That is a lot of calories, equating to a human eating 40 Big Mac sandwiches in a day.)

Bears hibernate in hollow trees or logs, under the root mass of a tree, or in caves formed by a jumble of large rocks. While hibernating, bears enter a state of reduced body temperature, pulse rate, and respiration that conserves energy, and do not defecate nor urinate, but can metabolically extract energy from body wastes.

Their "sleep" is not a deep one. Black bears often leave the den periodically. They may wander around looking for food before they return to hibernation. Even in the winter always assume a bear may be active in the area.

After emerging from winter dens, bears feed largely on meadow grasses, which are low in nutrition but sustain them until berries of various plant species ripen and other foods become available that provide higher calories. Bears also eat ants, termites, and insect larvae ripped out of logs or dug from the ground.

Visitors who encounter a bear should keep their distance for safety and respect for themselves and the animal. If visitors see a black bear in undeveloped areas, they should remain at least 50 yards from it. If they encounter a bear in developed areas, they should stand their ground and scare the bear away by raising their arms and making very loud noises.

Numerous Bear sightings have occurred in Yosemite West as well. A mother bear is in the area with two cubs. If you see this pair please keep your distance. Though black bears are normally timid and will shy away from people a mother bear can be very aggressive and dangerous.

Black bears may show dominance by bluff charging, especially when guarding food or cubs. Attacks are rare, and no one has been killed or seriously injured by a black bear in Yosemite.

Bears here in Yosemite West are curious and are always looking for food. They will walk right up to the homes and it is common to see them on the decks.

LIVING WITH BEARS AT THE PEREGRINE LODGE

Our guests should expect black bears to attempt amazing acts to obtain human food. If food has been left in a car, bears will break vehicle windows, bend car frames, and pop open camper shells. To get into a trunk, they will enter the passenger area and claw through the back seat.

You will have a long windy, and smelly ride home. Bears drool profusely, and will saturate your upholstery as they chew and tear it to shreds. I have not experience many smells worse then bear drool.

If you encounter a bear near the lodge while food is present, always remain with your food and encourage it to leave by clapping your hands and yelling at the bear. It does not matter what you yell. It can be anything from guttural noises and calls not unlike an animal, to your favorite Jack Kerouac quote. Most of our guest just yell "get out of here", or "go away". You can be more creative, just remember it is a family environment.

If you encounter a bear near the lodge and no food is involved please enjoy the bear sighting by keeping your distance and voices to a minimum.

Just remember we do not want the bear to think people are friends, don't be afraid to hurt their feelings. Just think of it as saving the bears life.

OUR POLICY

Please adhere to the following guidelines while you are here.

- Never leave the doors open when you are not using them for loading/unloading your bags and going and coming from the lodge. Bears will enter a home, as will smaller animals such as mice, which we call micro bears.
- Never leave food outside near the lodge or on the decks unattended. Not only will bears go after it but, birds, mice and other local critters.
- If a bear come onto the decks do not encourage it or entice it for a better view or a good photo op.*** This will only encourage bears to be bolder and develop bad habits. We want our bears to be natural and rely on natural food. ***Feeding bears will endanger their lives*** and may lead to them being put down.
- Do not leave food in your cars. It is also a good idea to remove anything that might smell like food to a bear. This might include lotions, hand disinfectant, sprays, breath mints, etc. (TIP: The rangers will issue tickets to cars that are parked and unattended with coolers in them).

Do not leave coolers outside on the decks or around the property. Bears know what coolers are and will approach to investigate. At the least your cooler may be damaged beyond repair. At the worse a bear has learned that our lodge is where a possible source of food can be found.

You can store empty coolers under the stairs located in the entry of the lodge. We can also store anything you like in our basement.

- When your kitchen trash is full please double bag it and place it inside the bear proof trash can outside the lodge near the lower entry. Do not use trash can if full, call 619-948-8560 and we will empty the can.
- Please do not leave young children unattended while playing around the lodge.
- Educate your children on the danger of bears. If you see them enjoy them from a distance, and never approach a bear.
- When using the BBQ please wipe up spills on the BBQ and deck. Never leave your food unattended when cooking or eating on the deck. Not only do we have full size bears, but we have mini, and micro bears as well. Raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, and mice all want the same thing, your food.
- Keep in mind that you can normally scare a bear away, but if a bear gets a hold of your food never try to retrieve it. After a bear has got hold of your food it is now their food, and they may fight to keep it. But chances are they will just run away with it in their mouths and that is the last you will ever see of your delicious rack of ribs.

Note: If any guest at the Peregrine Lodge is seen feeding or encouraging the bears your rental will be terminated, you will be asked to leave with no refund.

Thank you for your cooperation in following these guidelines your actions may help to keep our lodge safe from bear damage as well as saving a bear from being put down.