

Marathon Information Centre



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Mr Bear – The Unexpected Guest

- Black Bear:** (*Ursus Americanus Pallas*)
Color: Usually pure black, but may shade to brown or cinnamon. Most are black, often with a white patch below the throat or chest.
Height: Three feet at the shoulder.
Length: Approximately five feet.
Weight: Ranges from 125-500 pounds. Females are generally smaller than males.
Food: While they feed on both animal and vegetable, 90% are vegetarian.

Bears have been native to this area for thousands of years – **You Are The Visitor!** Remember that and act accordingly.

The bear is an animal that demands respect. Its seemingly amusing antics belittle its great strength and agility. It will defend itself, its young, and its territory if it feels threatened in any way.

All bears are potentially dangerous!! They are unpredictable and can inflict serious injury. **Never feed or approach a bear because of this. Also, never get between a mother and her cubs.** Every bear has individual and behavioural characteristics and not even experts can be sure how one will react in a particular situation.

Bears have a keen sense of smell. They can detect well hidden sources of food. Keep garbage in a safe closed area. Keep picnic tables and barbeque grills clean. Pick all fruit and vegetables from trees and ground.

Remember to never feed a bear. Doing so reinforces the bear to this artificial source of food. This will usually lead to an aggressive bear, which may have to be destroyed.