

What should I do if I see a black bear?

First of all - try to hike in groups. But if you encounter a bear...



- Make sure the bear has an escape route and try not to block that route.
- **Don't panic. Don't scream. Don't run. Don't climb a tree.** Bears are very fast and they climb trees with ease.
- Back away slowly, but always watch the bear to see what it's doing.
- Talk to the bear, in a normal voice. Say, *"Hello bear. It's just me."*
- Bears sometimes stand to get a better view and scent. This is not a sign of aggression.
- If the bear approaches, drop something on the ground to distract the bear - like a ballcap or your daypack.
- Back away, always facing the bear - and calmly and slowly leave the area.
- The vast majority of black bear charges are bluffs - but if the bear charges, be aggressive and yell at the bear. If it reaches you, **use bear spray or fight back!**

