

About me and the Wildlife Hike:

My name is Hagen Pflueger. I am your host and wildlife tour guide. I'm originally from Germany and came over to Canada in 2007. I'm an outdoor lover and passionate landscape and wildlife photographer.

I will take you on a hike (~8km) through nature along a public trail system in Metro Vancouver. Just 1 hour from downtown Vancouver, you can find wild animals in their natural habitat. You will also find a breathtakingly beautiful scenery and an abundance of plants, flowers, bushes and trees to enjoy.

The hike along a river with the opportunity of watching wildlife, is very popular. In the summertime we might see black bears, bald eagles, ospreys, racoon, all kinds of birds, beaver, herons, turtles, deer, ducks, geese, coyote along the hike. As much as I want to show as much wildlife to my guests as possible. I can not guarantee any wildlife sightings! I hope you understand.

Staying Safe in Bear Country

- **Hike with an experienced guide**
Follow an experienced local guide who knows the area and potential wildlife.
- **Use officially marked trails and stay together.**
Hike and bike in groups and don't let children wander. Larger groups (4 or more) are less likely to have a negative bear encounter. Travel during daylight hours. Bears are most active at dawn and dusk.
- **Be alert.**
Watch for bears or their scat and tracks, any strange smells or disturbed vegetation. Be aware of wind direction and speed. Extra caution is warranted when the wind is facing you.
- **Make noise.**
Don't surprise a bear. Call, sing, clap or talk loudly especially near streams and in areas of low visibility.
- **Carry bear spray**
and know how to use it.
- **Stay calm and back up slowly**
If the bear sees you, talk in a low, calm voice and then regardless if it has seen you or not, back up slowly. Never turn your back on a bear or run. Running could trigger an attack.
- **Do not stare**
The bear will see a direct stare as a challenge.
- **Give it space - 100 meters or more!**
Make sure it has a way to get away, and that you are not blocking access to a bear's cubs or its food.

Wildlife Hike

Go wild with me in Metro Vancouver!

A healthy and fun 2-3-hour experience as well as an excellent photo opportunity of breathtaking nature and wild animals in their natural habitat. Just 1-hour from downtown Vancouver.



See back for more details or book directly for CAD \$60 at:

www.wildlifeguidebc.com

Black bear facts sheet!

To reduce the potential for conflicts with bears in general and black bears in particular, it is important that you learn as much as you can about this animal and to read and follow the information presented here:

- BC boasts one of the highest populations of black bears in the world with their numbers being somewhere between 120 and 150 thousand animals.
- BC's grizzly number around 15,000 animals and this represents about one quarter of the entire North American population of grizzlies.
- Adult males measure between 60-90 cm at shoulder height and weigh anywhere from 80-300 kilograms.
- While called a black bear, these animals come in a variety of colours – everything from the white Kermode bear through to their namesake black and most shades of brown in between.
- Bears have eyesight and hearing as good as or better than that of humans. The myth about bears having poor eyesight is due in part to the bears habit of standing and apparently looking around as if to get a better look at people. What is more likely the case is that the bear is standing to get a better smell of you.
- Adult black bears have few predators in the wild: grizzly bears and wolves are about the only animals that will attempt to kill a full grown black bear.
- Young black bears may be preyed upon by adult male black bears, grizzly bears, wolves, coyotes, and cougars.
- Black bears can live to be over thirty years of age in the wild but more commonly live to be about fifteen to twenty years of age.
- Black bears are extremely fast and can run equally as well uphill or down.
- Bears inhabit most ecosystems throughout BC and you should consider the entire province to be “bear country”.
- Bears are normally solitary animals apart from when sows are with their young and tend to only congregate when there is an abundance of food.
- While bears have a “home range” they do not have a territory that they defend as their own. Bears will tolerate other bears in their presence when there is an abundance of food such as a run of salmon.
- Bears are omnivorous animals with vegetation making up about 80% of their diet and the remainder coming from things like small rodents, fish, insects, carrion (dead animals) and sometimes young deer, elk or moose.
- Because bears need such great stores of fat to make it through the winter they are voracious eaters and can consume over 20,000 calories a day. This phase of intense eating is called hyperphagia.

- Bears go into a deep sleep or denning period, usually from November through to April.
- Some black bears, usually males, may not hibernate if the weather is good and food is still abundant.
- Bears lose approximately 30% of their weight over the winter.
- Bears mate in late June and embryos do not implant until the fall and only if the female has sufficient stores of fat to support the young through the nursing period in the den.
- Black bears are born in the den and are from 250g to 500g in weight, eyes closed and relatively helpless.
- Female bears tend to their young for almost two years and can give birth to as many as five young but twins are more the norm.
- Bears have a sense of smell far greater than that of dogs and it is this sense of smell that helps them locate food at great distance.
- Bears have an extremely good sense of smell and can smell food from over a kilometer away.
- Young black bears are called cubs.
- During the denning period, bears will not defecate or urinate.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wildlifeguidebc>

Instagram: @wildlifeguidebc

Website: <http://www.hagen-pflueger.com>

Airbnb: <https://www.airbnb.ca/experiences/105022>

E-Mail: Hagen@wildlifeguidebc.com

Other useful links.

BC-Government: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/wildlife>

WildSafeBC: <https://wildsafebc.com/>

BC Wildlife Federation: <http://www.bcwfb.ca/>

BC Conservation Foundation: <https://bccf.com>

Bear Viewing Association: <http://www.bearviewing.ca>