

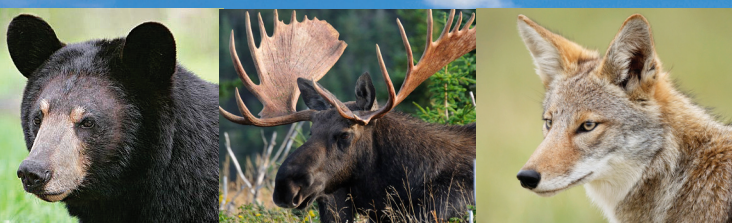


Cape Breton
Highlands
National Park

Parc national des
Hautes-Terres-
du-Cap-Breton

KEEP IT WILD KEEP IT SAFE

Do you know what to do
if you encounter wildlife?



If approached by a bear, moose or coyote
in the park, report it to Parks Canada at
1-877-852-3100 as soon as possible.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

REDUCE YOUR RISK



STAY ALERT!

Wild animals can be very protective of their young and of food sources. Leave the area if you see fresh signs, feeding areas like large berry patches, or carrion (dead animals).



MAKE NOISE AND BE VISIBLE

Animals can be unpredictable if surprised. Let wild animals know you're there – especially near streams, on windy days, and in areas of low visibility.



RESPECT THEIR SPACE

Stay 100 m (330 ft) away. Take a wide detour if you have to. Wildlife may become aggressive if they feel threatened.



HIKE WITH FRIENDS, A SOLID WALKING STICK, AND DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS

Consider bringing bear spray, a whistle and/or an air horn. Keep children close by.



TELL SOMEONE where you are going.



RIDE OR RUN IN GROUPS

Cycling and running may incite a chase response in coyotes and bears.



DO NOT FEED ANIMALS even indirectly through littering or throwing food scraps in the woods. Animals that have access to our food or garbage lose their fear of people and are more likely to be dangerous.



KEEP FOOD SMELLS TO A MINIMUM

Properly store or dispose of scented items (food, garbage, packaging, dishes, coolers, soap, lotions, toothpaste, etc.). Dispose of cooking water in sinks, not on the ground.



KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEASH

Dogs may trigger an attack and then come running back to you with a wild animal in pursuit.



DRONES (UAV) Disturb wildlife. They are prohibited in Parks Canada sites.

BLACK BEARS



IF YOU ARE APPROACHED, CALL PARKS CANADA'S 24 HOUR EMERGENCY DISPATCH 1-877-852-3100

Black bear attacks are extremely rare. However, you are in bear country and could encounter a bear at any time.

IF YOU SEE A BEAR

- ! Remain calm and observe its behaviour. Does it have cubs? Is it protecting food? How far away is it? Does it have an escape route?
- ! Avoid direct eye contact, but keep the bear in sight.
- ! Talk in a calm tone and walk away slowly, still facing the bear
- ! **DO NOT RUN; DO NOT CLIMB A TREE**
- ! **DO NOT FEED**

IF A BEAR APPROACHES YOU

- ! Get bear spray ready, only use if bear approaches within 7 m (25 ft)
- ! Make yourself large, make noise, throw rocks
- ! If in a group, gather together
- ! Stand up to the bear
- ! If the bear approaches within 7 metres (25 ft), use bear spray be sure you know how to use it.

BLACK BEAR ATTACKS

There are two types of attacks: defensive and predatory. Recognizing each type will help you react appropriately.

DEFENSIVE

Bears are protecting food or cubs. They may huff or clack their jaw, bluff charge and/or swing head side to side.

PREDATORY

Bears stalk quietly, or attack at night.

IF A BEAR ATTACKS

DEFENSIVE ATTACK

- Use bear spray
- **DO NOT RUN OR TURN** - stand up to the bear
- Raise arms, make yourself large
- If the bear knocks you down, **PLAY DEAD**
- Protect your head and neck with hands and arms

PREDATORY ATTACK

- Use bear spray
- **DO NOT RUN OR TURN** - stand up to the bear
- Raise arms, make yourself large
- If the bear knocks you down, **DO NOT PLAY DEAD**
- Fight back with whatever you have

COYOTES



Most coyotes run away before you see them. However, in certain areas such as trails, roads and campgrounds, they may become habituated to people or conditioned to human food or garbage. Habituated coyotes lose their natural fear of people and can be dangerous.

IF A COYOTE APPROACHES YOU

- ! **DO NOT RUN**
Running can incite a chase response. Coyotes can run up to 65 km/h (40 mph)
- ! Remain calm
- ! **DO NOT TURN YOUR BACK**
- ! Make yourself large and loud
- ! Attempt to drive the coyote away (noise / rocks / sticks)
- ! Use bear spray (if you know how)
- ! **DO NOT FEED**
- ! **CALL 1-877-852-3100**

CARCASSES

Predators often feed on animal remains.

- Report carcass sightings to Parks staff or call 1-877-852-3100.
- Heed 'Carcass in Area' signs and stay out of these areas

IF A COYOTE ATTACKS

• FIGHT BACK

- Shout, throw stones and use whatever is available to defend yourself

- Use bear spray, if you know how

• DO NOT PLAY DEAD

- ! Report your encounter immediately to Parks Canada staff, or call **1-877-852-3100**

MOOSE



Moose may look tame, but they are not. They have been known to charge people and vehicles and can attack with their hooves.

- ! Cow moose with young will defend their space if they think you're too close. Stay a respectful 30 m (100 ft) away.
- ! During the breeding season both bulls and cows can be aggressive (October to December).
- ! In late winter, moose may be reluctant to leave the road or trail and may defend their space aggressively.

SIGNS OF AN AGGRESSIVE MOOSE

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ! Ears pinned back | ! Hair on neck raised |
| ! Foot stomping | ! Swaying head |
| ! Short charges | ! Blowing / huffing |

TO AVOID AN ENCOUNTER

- ! **STAY AT LEAST 3 BUS LENGTHS AWAY** (30 m / 100 ft), whether driving or on foot
- ! On the trail, wait for it to leave, or return the way you came
- ! Keep a tree or other large obstacle between you and the moose
- ! Never try to scare a moose off the trail

WATCH FOR MOOSE WHILE DRIVING

Moose commonly run across the road – and sometimes stand in the middle of it. They can be very hard to see, especially at dusk, in fog, or if they are not facing you. Avoid a collision: scan the roadside for wildlife, drive within the posted speed limit, and avoid driving after dusk.

IF A MOOSE CHARGES

- Find protection and get behind it
- Trees or large rocks can serve as a barrier
- If you get knocked down by a moose, curl up into a ball and protect your head and neck
- ! Report encounters with agitated or aggressive moose immediately to Parks Canada staff or call **1-877-852-3100**