



Oregon Sea Grant Extension
Sustainable Tourism &
Outdoor Recreation Program

Interpretative Fact Sheet

American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)



The following short article is from the [Oregon Coast 101 Species](#) collection used by the Guide and Outfitter Recognized Professional (GORP) training program. These articles are intended to provide interesting facts you can share with your clientele and add value to your services.

An Interpretive Fact Sheet has been written about each species. We are currently uploading these blogs and creating the links.

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Tourism and Business Development College of Business,
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<https://www.gorpguide.org/become-a-gorp-certified-guide>

Black Bears, *Ursus americanus*

 tourism.oregonstate.edu/black-bears-ursus-americanus/

By Rasha Aridi

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Oregon is home to nearly 30,000 black bears, *Ursus americanus*, America's most common bear species. They can grow up to six feet long and weight anything from 125 to 500 pounds. In fact, the name "black bear" is misleading, because they can have brown or gray coats.

If you're on the lookout for bears in Oregon, you'll only find black bears, since grizzlies haven't been seen in the state since the 1930s. They make their home in Oregon's abundant forests, where they create dens for hibernation, climb up trees, and forage.

If you're really looking to find one, try visiting areas that have been clear-cut and allowed to grow for a few years. They are easier to spot, and they feed on the grass and brush.

They also feed on berries, nuts, and fruits; they can eat small mammals, insects, fish, and amphibians, but they are not usually actively hunting.

The best time to spot a black bear is in the middle of the summer, when their breeding season begins. Males and females will be more active, and yearling bears are becoming independent and can be seen roaming around roads and clear cuts. They are also independent animals, so don't expect to see many in the same place.

Sources:



https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/black_bears.asp

<http://www.oregonwild.org/wildlife/black-bear>

<http://ouroregoncoast.com/coast-notes-list/159-news/1309-black-bears-on-the-oreogn-coast.html>