



Report all bear sightings and animal carcasses to Parks Canada staff or call the Nahanni National Park Reserve Duty Officer: **867-695-3732 (office)** or **867-679-6572 (cell)**.

## Avoiding an encounter

**Travel as part of a group** and never let children wander.

**Make noise!** Callout, clap hands, sing or talk loudly – especially near streams, dense vegetation and berry patches, on windy days, and in areas of low visibility. Do not rely on bear bells.

**Watch for fresh bear sign:** tracks, droppings, diggings, torn-up logs, turned-over rocks.

**Never approach a bear.** Always maintain a distance of at least 100 metres.

**Keep your dog on a leash at all times or leave it at home.**

**If you come across large dead animals,** leave the area immediately and report it.

## Backcountry Camping

**Avoid camping near thick brush, animal trails or berry patches.** In Nááts'ihch'oh, the berry season is from June through late August.

**Keep yourself and campsite odour free** – set up cooking, eating and food storage areas at least 100 metres from your tent and consider wind direction.

**Leave smelly cosmetics at home** – store toiletries and personal items with food.

**Use bear-resistant storage containers** for food and garbage storage.

**Wash and store all dishes, stoves and food utensils immediately after use.**

**Pack out garbage** – do not burn or bury it. Store it the same as your food.

Nááts'ihch'oh staff can provide information on current bear activity, closures, warnings and safety advice. Call the park office in Tulita at **867-588-4884**.

## Bear Spray

Research indicates that bear spray can be effective with some bears when used properly. If you plan to carry it, familiarize yourself with the proper use of bear spray (including the manufacturer's specific instructions) and keep it readily accessible.

There are restrictions on how bear spray can be transported, check with your airline and air charter company.

**Parks Canada recommends carrying bear spray with you at all times while travelling in the park – at camp, on foot, or on the river.**

## Cultural Note

Nááts'ihch'oh is in the heart of the ancestral homelands of the Shúhtaot'ine (Mountain Dene). Grizzly bears are a deeply respected animal in Shúhtaot'ine culture, and the Elders ask that the bears be treated and spoken of with utmost care. For this reason, travellers in the mountains are meant to refer to a grizzly bear as “The Big Guy”, so as not to disturb the spirit of the bear by using its true name.

For information on how to handle a bear attack: [www.parksCanada.gc.ca/naatsihchoh](http://www.parksCanada.gc.ca/naatsihchoh)