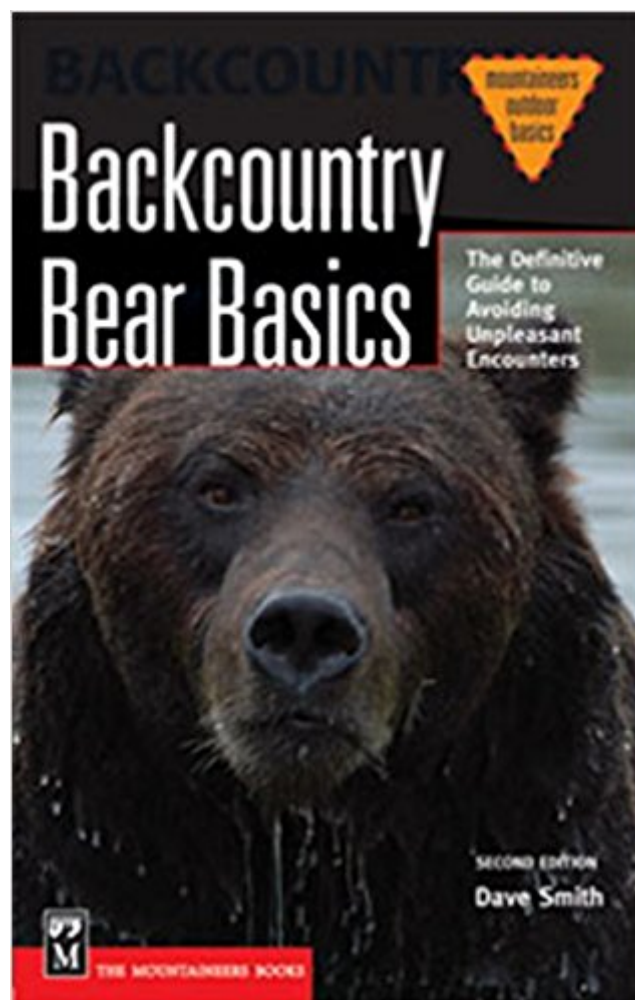




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Backcountry Bear Basics: The Definitive Guide To Avoiding Unpleasant Encounters (Mountaineers Outdoor Basics)



Synopsis

Everything you need to know about traveling and camping safely in bear country – Practical strategies for avoiding dangerous situations; and how to cope if you do encounter a bear – Debunks commonly held myths about people and bears – Revised edition highlights new research and new issues No more myths. No more rumors. No more horror stories. Backcountry Bear Basics, 2nd Edition provides tested strategies to help you avoid conflict with black bears and grizzlies. Bear expert Dave Smith gives you the basics; like how to choose a good campsite and properly store your food so that you don't have to worry whether that pepper spray you brought will work on the bear that wanders into camp. He debunks commonly held myths about people and bears. For instance, menstruating women don't have to stay out of bear country, he says. And no, don't roll up in a ball when faced with a charging bear. So much of conventional wisdom about bears is often just plain bad advice; Smith tells you what you should do instead and why. He also reviews specific outdoor activities; from fishing to mountain biking to hiking with young children to trail running; assessing the likelihood of bear encounters and suggesting tactics for coping in different settings and situations. This updated second edition incorporates new research (Do bear bells work? Does tent color or shape make a difference in attracting bears?) and adds more charts and sidebars to make material accessible at a glance. Smith provides key information on bear behavior and biology to help you understand, rather than fear, this most misunderstood animal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A fascinating and informative read for anglers, campers, hikers, hunters, and anyone else who ventures into the backcountry." -- Arizona Republic
"Smith provides key information on bear behavior and biology.." -- The Reel News
"The best and most practical guide to traveling and camping in bear country." -- Statesman Journal
"The second edition of Dave Smith's Backcountry Bear Basics... is terrific.." -- Wildlife Management Institute
"This is one of the most useful and informative books you ever will purchase if you plan to travel in bear country..." -- Grand Rapids Press
"[Dave Smith] spreads out the facts in plain English, with common-sense tips and precautions for staying safe.." -- The Flint Journal
"outdoorsman and naturalist Smith takes readers on an educational 'tour' of what they need to know before entering bear country" -- Montana Standard

Dave Smith is a naturalist who has worked in Yellowstone, Glacier, Denali, and Glacier Bay National Parks. He is also the author of Don't Get Eaten: The Dangers of Animals that Charge or Attack.

There are many books on bears. Some are conservation minded and some are preservation minded. Some lean too much one way or the other. This one downplays the dangers in favor of the bear. All are well meaning but the best ones err on the side of caution favoring innocent human hikers who are too often attacked by grizzly bears for no good reason. Humans get the edge on benefit of the doubt. But not in this book. Good book though.

Excellent book! Living in Alaska it is helpful to know the correct information regarding bears, how to avoid conflicts, and what signs to look for and what to do if you have an encounter. This book has facts not opinions, and was the perfect length. Not too short and not too long.

As a wilderness guide I have read other books, brochures, and articles about traveling and camping in bear country, but none focuses in on the most relevant, practical, current information like Backcountry Bear Basics. Dave Smith backs up his sometimes unconventional assertions with cogent arguments and scientific references for those who want to know more, and he debunks the myths that have plagued bear literature for decades. I found the book engaging and entertaining as well as informative. I don't know what the reviewers who called it "dry" were expecting -- juicy blood and guts anecdotes a la Alaskan Bear Tales? Those are fine for scaring each other around the campfire but the purpose of Backcountry Bear Basics is to bring the reader's fears into line with

reality and avoid problems for people and bears. My advice to anyone who will be hiking or camping in bear country without a guide: Read this book and carry it with you -- and follow its advice about securing your food!

I found some useful information in this book but got very tired of the many references to faulty information from other books. I was thinking all the time: stop giving us all the wrong information. Get to the point. The book could have been a lot shorter.

As my partner and I are planning a "tour" of our National Parks in the coming months, we are consuming as much material as possible before embarking on our journey. Not only did we learn about the bare Bear Basics but there was much information about the inner workings of our National Parks. Very helpful and informative short read. Not a literary masterpiece but worthy of our bookshelf.

This is a fantastic book! If you're looking for a book about bear behavior, what to watch for in the backcountry, what to do in an encounter, etc, this is the book! What I really liked about this book over several of the others is that it presents the facts about bear habitat, behavior, encounters with people, and other necessary info for every backcountry enthusiast without the distracting nonsense and environmental crap that seems to be dominant in most books of this nature. Well worth the small price tag! A definite must-read!

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Assuming the information is correct (I am not an expert in the field, so I can't comment), it is extremely helpful. Very thorough and practical, for example, the discussion on firearm vs bear spray. Many common beliefs propagated by word-of-mouth are dispelled.

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