



The Mackenzie Chamber  
of Commerce

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Visitor Information Centre  
(May – September)

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District of Mackenzie

Bag 340

1 Mackenzie Boulevard  
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*... the sky's the limit!*



## *Wildlife Viewing & Outdoor Safety Guide*

*Come explore nature's playground  
in beautiful Mackenzie... where  
nature never sleeps.*

The Mackenzie area has plenty to offer the outdoor enthusiast – hiking, camping, fishing, boating, skiing, wildlife viewing or simply enjoying a sandy beach. There is a little bit of something for every type of outdoor person, from the weekend hiker to the hard-core hunter.

While enjoying our extensive outdoor playground, safety should always be the main focus as there is a strong likelihood of encountering some form of wildlife – from a bald eagle to a bull moose.

In the event that you do encounter an aggressive wild animal, the Conservation Officer Service Office is located at:

Ministry of Forests

1 Cicada Road, Mackenzie BC V0J 2C0

Phone: 250.997.6555

Fax: 250.997.6978

Please do not try to handle the situation yourself. Contact the local Conservation Officer immediately.

Mackenzie and the surrounding area is a vast, mostly untouched wilderness with amazing scenery and wildlife. From the Rocky Mountains to Morfee Lake to Heather—Dina Provincial Park, the outdoor activities are limitless.

The beauty of the land is amazing and part of that beauty is the diverse variety of the wildlife found in our area – some of which can be quite dangerous. Animals you may encounter on your travels through the forest can include, but are not limited to, moose, bears (grizzly and black), wolves and coyotes.

While visiting our picturesque wilderness and enjoying the outdoor activities and venues, here are a few safety tips to help you safely experience the wild.



### Basic Outdoor Safety Tips:

1. Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return.
2. If you get lost, stay put. You will be easier to locate.
3. Pay attention to the wildlife found in the area and what seasons they are most likely to be encountered.
4. Travel, hike, or explore in a group making as much noise as possible.
5. Ensure you are properly outfitted for the weather and your activity.

# Mackenzie's Majestic Wilderness

## Avoiding Confrontation With Wildlife

While exploring the many kilometers of beautiful forests, scenic lakes, and groomed trails offered by our community there are many things you as the visitor can do to avoid finding yourself in confrontational situations with wildlife. Below are several suggestions of simple things each person can do to reduce their risk of an unwanted animal confrontation.

1. Keep all pets leashed.
2. Keep children close by and within sight and do not encourage them to pet, pose or play with wild animals.
3. Do not leave food out or try to feed the wildlife. Store all food items in airtight containers and change clothes after cooking or preparing food.
4. Watch for signs of animals in the area – tracks, droppings, caves, etc.
5. Do not remain in an area where a dead animal is found – it will attract other animals.
6. Avoid approaching animals that are breeding, nesting, brooding or raising young.
7. Photograph wildlife from an extended distance or with a telephoto lens.
8. Reduce the risk of surprising an animal by keeping the wind at your back so animals can catch your scent.



## How to Handle Confrontation with Wildlife

As with all life, some situations are unavoidable. If you find yourself in a situation where you are nose-to-nose with a wild animal, please remember the following items:

1. Remain calm.
2. Keep the animal in your sight at all times – do not turn your back to the animal.
3. If the animal approaches, make lots of noise and back away slowly, if possible.
4. If a cougar confronts you and appears to be aggressive, respond aggressively. If he attacks, fight back.
5. If a grizzly bear confronts you, curl up and play dead – they like their dinner cold and somewhat decayed.
6. If a black bear attacks you, fight back aiming for the nose and eyes – they like their dinner fresh and warm.

For more information on wildlife & human interaction visit:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/>

Remembering these simple tips will help make your exploration into the Mackenzie wilderness more safe and enjoyable for all members of your family. So explore the hills, trek the fields, and take in the natural beauty. As with all wildlife areas, please leave it the way you found it – haul out any garbage you brought in and try to leave as small a footprint as possible. For more information, please see the BC Parks website at

<http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/>

