

There are brown bears right near you!

If brown bears get a taste of human food or garbage, or become used to being near people, they can become “problem bears.” No one knows when or where a problem bear may appear. Please follow the safety rules and act responsibly.

Most Important To Avoid Encountering Bears



Make noise
to let bears know you are there



Check all around
for signs of bears
and **Stay alert**



Manage food carefully
to avoid strong smells



Travel in groups
whenever possible

First, Keep Calm!

If You Encounter a Brown Bear



Do not excite it!



Do not turn your back and run



Keep your distance
and slowly move away.



Do not get out
of your car.
Keep windows closed.

Follow Key Rules!

4 Rules for Bear Country



Keep your distance
from bears



Take all garbage
home



Do not feed wildlife



Keep food and belongings with you

* Food and garbage odors attract bears. Once a brown bear learns the taste of human food, it may need to be killed to protect humans.
* Sightseeing cruises are the best way to see bears!

Shiretoko Brown Bear



<https://brownbear.shiretoko.or.jp/visit/>

Brown Bear Regulations



<https://policies.env.go.jp/park/shiretoko/whc-c/higumakisei/index.html>

**If You See a Brown Bear,
Please Report it Immediately!**

Shiretoko Brown Bear Manners Guide

Published by : Ministry of the Environment, Kushiro Nature Conservation Office

Are There Really
Brown Bears
Here?

About Brown Bears

Ezo Brown Bear *Ursus arctos yesoensis*
Order: Carnivora; Family: Ursidae

The brown bear is the largest land animal in Japan; it is found only in Hokkaido. In Shiretoko, brown bears live in a variety of environments, including forests, along rivers, and near the coast. The population on the Shiretoko Peninsula is estimated at around 400–500* bears, with a population density said to be among the highest in the world.

An incredible sense of smell

Bears' sense of smell is much better than a dog's! They can detect scents from up to 3 km away.



Some brown bears even have a crescent-shaped chest marking.

Excellent memory

They never forget where they found food.

Natural athletes

Strong, powerful, and skilled at climbing and swimming.

Can run up to 60 km/h

You can't outrun a bear!

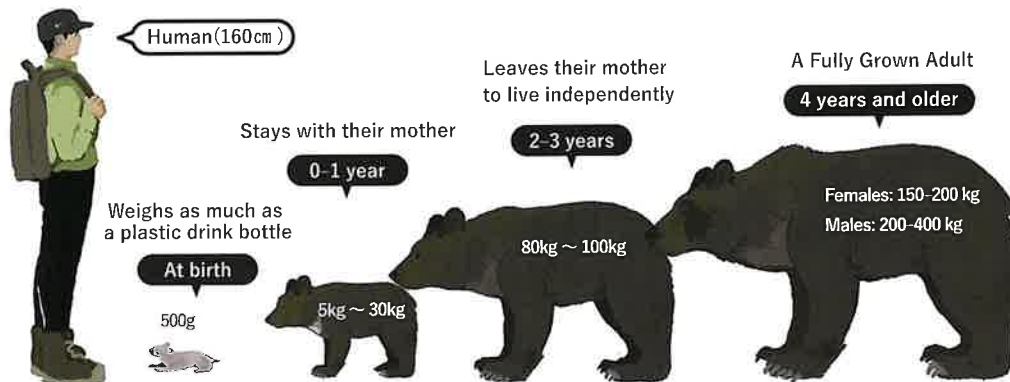
Front paws like excavators

perfect for digging winter dens!

*Estimated population as of 2020

Brown Bear Size

Brown bears are born much smaller than humans but grow to be much larger.



Signs of Brown Bears

Fresh signs indicate a bear may be nearby. If you find any, leave the area immediately.

Droppings:

Much of what they eat comes out undigested. Droppings can be bigger than an adult's hand.



Footprints



Claw marks



A Year in the Life of a Brown Bear—and What They Eat

Brown bears are omnivores, eating different foods depending on the season. They hibernate during winter when food is scarce.

Spring

Mar.-Apr.

Waking from hibernation and becoming active

Ezo deer

Young leaves of plants

Asian skunk cabbage

Ants and cicadas

Summer

May-Aug.

Breeding season

Very active

Dwarf pine cones

Mushrooms

Lingonberries

Wild grapes

Acorns

Autumn

Sep.-Nov.

Storing up fat for hibernation

Salmon and trout

Winter

Dec.-Feb.

Hibernation

Female bears give birth during hibernation

In agricultural areas, crop damage also occurs.



Wheat



Corn



Sugar beets