

Bears Books Reading List

"We've been meeting them in the wilderness and in our dreams since we began drawing on the walls of caves. No beasts cast a longer shadow over our collective subconscious. Perhaps more than any animal, the bear remains at the very heart of our concept of wilderness." – Brian Payton

This list of books are some of my favourite reads when I first became a Grizzly Bear Viewing Guide. Reading these books and observing bears for over a decade has changed my perspective and understanding of bears.

What I learned as a child and as an adult through the media and in my over active imagination was completely wrong.

The Mission

Now is a great time to snuggle in with a good book, your mission if you so choose, is to read as many books from this list.

If you have book titles you want to tell me about? I'd love to add them to the list. Shoot me an email at daryl@experiencenature.academy.

I hope you enjoy these books as much as I have. Pour yourself some hot chocolate and let the reading begin!

Bear Book Reading List

1. Breiter, Matthias. *Bears: a Year in the Life*. Firefly Books, 2008.

Just as the title suggests this book documents a bear's life each month of the year. All three North American bears are featured. Photos galore accompanied with thoughtful information.

2. Busch, Robert. *The Grizzly Almanac*. The Lyons Press, 2004.

The first book I read on my journey as a brand new grizzly bear viewing guide with little knowledge of what bears truly are was *The Grizzly Almanac* by Robert Busch. This became my go to book in the first few years of my guiding career.

3. Chadwick, Douglas H. *True Grizz: Glimpses of Fernie, Stahr, Easy, Dakota, and Other Real Bears in the Modern World*. Sierra Club, 2006.

Set in the outskirts of a Montana town, this story follows a grizzly mom and her cubs and her struggle to find food that is not from a human source. Doug along with crew of volunteers work hard to discourage bears from helping themselves to easy food off of the communities porches and shed. Describes the teaching process that is used to recondition bears human food desires.

4. Craighead, Frank C. *Track of the Grizzly*. Sierra Club Books, 1982.

This follows the research of a decade of the grizzly bears of Yellowstone National Park. Interesting antidotes and stories that are not found in any other book about bears.

5. Sylvia Dolson, *Fascinating Bear Facts, Tales & Trivia*. Bear Smart Society, 1982.

A fun book with activities and small challenges to test your bear knowledge. A great book to share with the little people in your life.

6. Herrero, Stephen. *Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance*. Lyons Press, 2018.

It took me awhile to read this book. The title put me off because of my vivid imagination. However, when I met my first grizzly on the trail I thought it would be a good idea to read it. I found it to be very informative, factual and not dramatic. Gave me a good feel for the behaviour of bears and their possible responses to different situations.

7. Marty, Sid. *The Black Grizzly of Whiskey Creek*. Emblem/McClelland & Stewart, 2008.

The Black Grizzly of Whiskey Creek follows the human-bear interactions that occurred in this small community. Marty discusses the possible reasons for the behaviour of the Black Grizzly.

6. McAllister, Ian, and Nicholas Read. *Salmon Bears*. Orca Book Publishers, 2014.

The Salmon Bears is a children's book jam packed with information and beautiful images. It is not just for kids, adults would enjoy this great little book.

9. Payton, B.W. *SHADOW OF THE BEAR*. BLOOMSBURY, 2006.

This is one of my favourite books. After a trip up to the Khutzeymateen to see the grizzlies, was so amazed he decided to travel the world to find out first hand about each of the 8 bear species found in the world. This is a very poignant book describing the dilemma of each species of bears from human encroachment, loss of habitat, hunting and poaching for bear parts.

10. Poulsen, Else, and Stephen Herrero. *Smiling Bears A Zookeeper Explores the Behavior and Emotional Life of Bears*. Greystone Books, 2014.

Poulsen works intimately with bears in captivity building their trust so she can create enclosures that best suits each bears emotional needs and requirements.

11. Romulo, Beth Day. Grizzlies in Their Backyard. Heritage House, 1994.

A beautiful little book set at the head of Knight Inlet. This book follows the homesteading lives of Jim and Loree Stanton. As the title suggests there are several stories of the animals that became the pets of the Stantons and this also includes two orphaned grizzly cubs.

12. Russell, Charles, et al. Grizzly Heart: Living without Fear among the Brown Bears of Kamchatka. Vintage Canada, 2003.

Grizzly Heart is the remarkable account of how for seven years Charlie Russell spent the summers in Kamchatka rehabilitating orphaned grizzly bears. How he helped them learn to be bears, to fish and how to hibernate. A very special book about a very special man. There is a film called "Return to Eden" which follows Charlie during his time in Kamchatka. If you are able to find it I highly recommend a viewing.

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