ENCOUNTERING POLAR BEARS

while hiking in Greenland

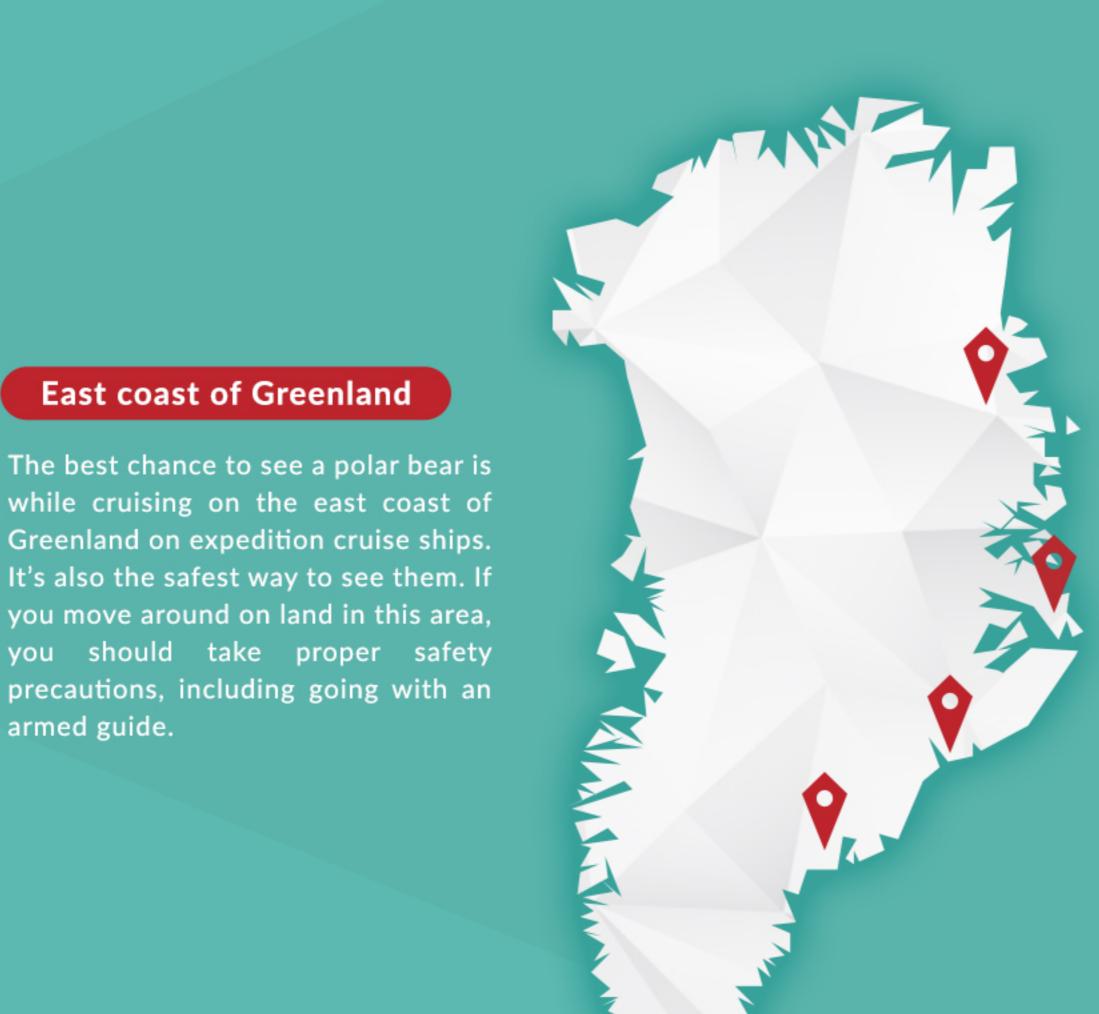


2.200 bears on the west coast

The polar bear population in Greenland is estimated to be sustainable. Around 2.200 polar bears live along the west coast of Greenland, and it is unknown how many polar bears live on the east coast. However, the population is likely similar or larger to that of the west coast. Polar bear sightings in inhabited places in Greenland are generally very rare, but they occasionally come near towns and settlements, attracted by the scent of food.

THE EAST COAST

Want to see a polar bear in Greenland?





How likely is it to encounter a polar bear while hiking in Greenland?

It depends very much on different things like the location, time of year, the situation with floating ice and so on - but generally, slim to none.



ATTACKS

East coast of Greenland

The best chance to see a polar bear is

while cruising on the east coast of

Greenland on expedition cruise ships.

It's also the safest way to see them. If

you move around on land in this area,

you should take proper safety

armed guide.

An attack is when a polar bear makes physical contact with a person.

CHARGES

A charge is when a polar bear moves deliberately toward a human with the intention to attack and kill. Unlike other bears, polar bears do not make warning charges to scare people off.



Charges

close human-bear interactions. Between 2012-2017, 16 polar bear charges have been registered.

In 2012, biologists began keeping

Injuries

Between 2012-2017, 2 polar bear attacks have been registered where people were injured but not killed.

Killed

deaths by a polar bear attack in Greenland in the last 25 years.

As of 2018, there are no reported

WHAT TO DO 1F YOU MEET ONE? Here's how you should act



staying out of sight. Position yourself so that the wind doesn't carry your scent towards the bear. The bear sees you

but stays calm

while keeping an eye on it. The bear is curious and begins to move nearer

You move away from it very

slowly and quietly sideways,

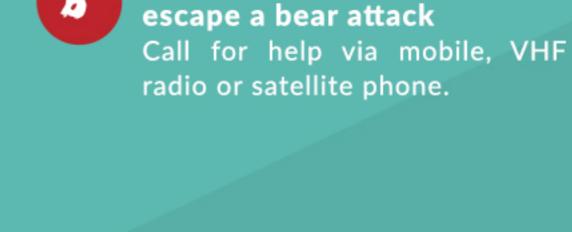
Wave your arms and make loud noises. Shout loudly or bang things together like two water bottles or a canteen and its cup lid. Prepare weapon or signal flares.

for an attack Explode a signal flare directly in front of it. Prepare to shoot in self defense. If the bear

The bear attacks Fight with all possible remedies, like a knife or a stick. Kick or hit it hard on its nose and/or eyes. Protect your head, neck and core as best as possible.

under its chin and shoot.

continues to charge, aim right



You manage to

Where you should keep your distance

OTHER WILD ANIMALS

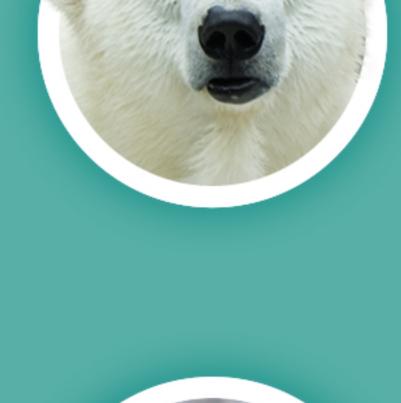


Yes, it sounds strange, but the sled dog is a wild animal with a

owner has given you permission. 2 POLAR BEAR 3 MUSK OX

predator instinct. This is why they are always tethered when they

are not working. You should never touch a sled dog unless its



Experts say there is no record of humans killed by polar bears in Greenland for the past many

decades. We like to think this is because people were prepared. If a polar bear charges and you don't have remedies to protect yourself like a rifle, knife or signal flares -

Musk oxen are like giant goats but

when they are in heat they can become quite aggressive and territorial. They regard humans as

predators, so it is best to keep a wide distance. Their behaviour can be unpredictable.

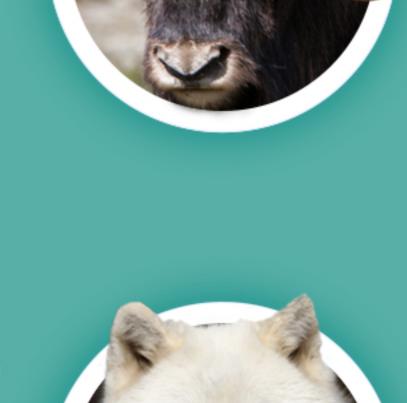


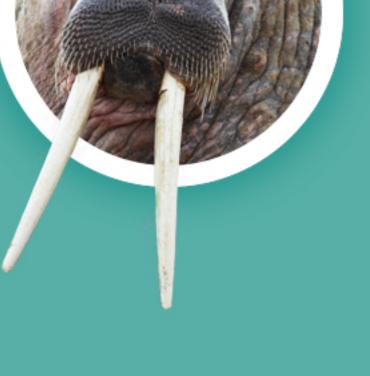


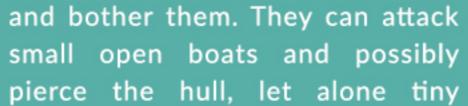
your chances of survival are slim. 4 WALRUS Male walruses can behave like big, bad bulls if you enter their territory and bother them. They can attack 5 ARCTIC WOLF Packs of arctic wolves are

extremely rare in Greenland, and

most live in the remote northern







and northeastern parts of Greenland. While wolf attacks have been registered, this is no kayaks. Luckily for kayakers, threat to the vast majority of walruses mostly stay in very specific areas, so just don't get visitors to Greenland. near those 'hot spots'.

