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## Travel

Setup all flights for arrival/departure (YVR) Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Realize that it could take up to 2 hours for you to clear customs at YVR.

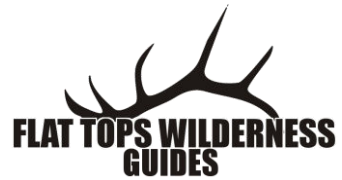
- We recommend you arrive in Vancouver early (noon or earlier) on the Sunday we are scheduled to take you to camp. Alternatively, arrive the Saturday before and we will pick you up at your hotel.
- We recommend you schedule your departure for the afternoon of the Sunday drop-off day or the Monday morning after. We can drop you off at a hotel.
- Please make your own reservations at hotels well beforehand.
- Please let us know your arrival and departure dates/times.

If you have a criminal record, including DUI or DWI, realize that this can be a problem with border personal and customs. You may need to work with a border crossing consultant.

Check your passport right now. Make sure it does not expire before or during the hunt.

## Travel Paperwork

1. Please return the Non-Resident License application we provide. Only the personal information form is needed. We will fill out the rest. All tags and licenses will be purchased before your arrival.
2. Do not attempt to bring handguns into Canada. All rifles and shotguns must be registered at customs upon entry into Canada. Please fill out the provided Non-resident firearms form. **Do Not sign this form until you are in front of the border agent.**
3. If you think there is a chance you will want to harvest additional animals on a trophy fee, bring a cashier's check, traveler's checks, or cash.



### **Meat and Taxidermy Shipping**

Taxidermy is not included in the cost of the hunt. We can arrange for taxidermy and shipping from Canada at additional cost.

Call us for details on taking meat home. Meat left in BC will be consumed by the camp or donated. No meat will be wasted.

### **Important Hunting Regulations**

Although you will always be with a guide, it is important you understand some of the key rules and regulations.

It is unlawful....

- to hunt wildlife if not in possession of your hunting license and species tag
- to shoot wildlife from a motor vehicle or a boat propelled by a motor
- to hunt wildlife by the use of, or with the aid of, a light or an illuminating device
- to hunt game from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise
- for non-residents to hunt without a guide (must be within reasonable verbal distance)
- for a guide to take more than two non-resident hunters

Black bear less than 2-years old or any bear in its company cannot be harvested. Always take time to ensure there are no cubs present.

Grizzly bear are in these areas, do not shoot them.

It is illegal to have a loaded (including attached magazine) weapon in a vehicle, including 4x4s and side-by-sides.

The BC regulation forbids the possession, trafficking, importing, and exporting of many separated bear parts (gall bladders, paws removed from hide, etc...)

When your hunt is complete, non-residents must obtain a completed form of declaration from their guide.

## Recommended Spring Black Bear Equipment List

### General Considerations

Use all your gear before your trip. This especially applies to boots, day pack and safety equipment. New, not-worn-in boots can ruin a trip. Making sure your day pack fits well will make your trip more enjoyable.

The weather in May-June in British Columbia is relatively mild, but you should be prepared for temperature fluctuations. Anticipate temperatures from 35 degrees to 75 degrees. A large portion of our hunting area is around 11,000ft and above. Days can be warm, into the 70's, and nights below freezing. Moisture is always possible in the coastal mountains.

**Stay away from cotton**, i.e. Carhartt, blue jeans, cotton socks, etc... When cotton gets wet it is useless and it will exacerbate suboptimal weather's effect on your body. Focus on wool and synthetics. There is a lot of newer technology clothing that is lightweight, packable, warm and dries quickly.

We recommend brands and models of specific gear in our lists. Do not construe these recommendations as the only option. We use these items personally. Because we do this for a living, our choices are on the more expensive end of the spectrum. There is always a range of prices on gear that will get the job done.

Don't hesitate to give us a call about any specific gear questions.

## **Boots and Footwear**

1 Primary pair of waterproof/water-resistant hiking boots.

- Boots that are lined with Gore-Tex (usually indicated with GTX in the model name) are a good option.
- If we have indicated to you that we will be hunting our high camps, a mountaineering type boot is best. We use Hanwag Alaskas, Kenetrek Mountain Extremes, Scarpa Fuego or Wrangell, Lowa Tibets, and Meindl Alaska Hunters.
- As a less expensive option, many hunters are happy with Danner boots.
- Try to visit a retail location where you can try on different boot models. Fit is essential.
- In steep terrain, the rigidity of the sole is more important than the boot height. Wearing boots that are uncomfortably high can cause “shin bump”, an uncomfortable sore spot on your shins.

1 Secondary pair of boots/shoes

- A pair of Merrel type hiking shoes is great backup footwear. They are not great in wet conditions, but the reduced weight and increased breathability are nice.
- A pair of tennis shoes can even work well in Spring as camp/backup footwear.
- Crocs or sandals can be nice as camp shoes.

Gators (Optional)

- Great in snow and/or rain. Also great when dealing with high, frosty or dewy vegetation
- Keep your boots and feet dryer

## **Base Clothing**

**Bring quiet gear. If it goes “swoosh” when you move, don’t bring it.**

Layers

- Bring layers that will accommodate and keep you comfortable at 35-75 degrees
- Activity will vary so make sure you have sufficient layers of varying warmth

1 Full set of rain gear

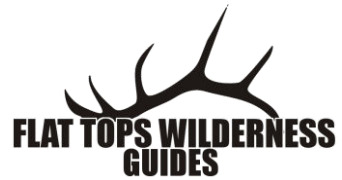
## **Other Clothing**

### Gloves

- One light weight and one heavier (wool is best) pair of gloves is optimal.
- We prefer glommits because they allow us to use our fingers. Several of us shoot recurves via finger release. Cabelas Big Game Glommits are a good choice.
- Learn to quickly remove or shoot your bow with your chosen gloves.
- Hands can get cold on 4 wheelers and while glassing.

### 1 Warm hat and/or baclava

- We usually wear wool beanies, but this is personal preference
- Light fleece hats can be plenty warmth during Spring



## **Hunting Gear**

Wind indicator

### Rifle

We have rifles for rent for \$200 for the duration of your hunt.

- Browning A-Bolts, .325 Short Mag

If you are bringing your own rifle stick to calibers .270 or larger.

Be prepared for shots from 50 yards to 350 yards.

Bring 30 rounds of ammo.

### Archery:

Bow

Arrows with extra broadheads and fieldpoints

- Work with an archery shop to setup a consistent set of arrows specifically geared towards larger coastal black bears.
- We do not make recommendations on arrow specifics because so much personal preference is involved. The important factor is that you have practiced and are confident at varying distances.

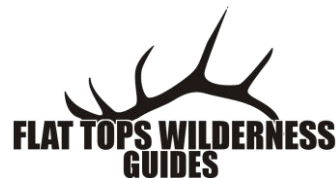
Release and an extra release

Arm guard if used

Spare parts for your bow

Allen wrench set

String wax



## **Tool Gear**

1 Head lamp

Binoculars

- Your optics are the second most important piece of gear, right behind boots.
- We have had good luck with the top models from Nikon. Swarovski and other euro glass optics are worth the money if you plan to use them for years of hunting.
- Nikon Trailblazer 10x50s that are waterproof and Leupold Compacts are good mid-range options. SLC and EL Swaros are good high-end optics.
- Cliff guides using 8x42 ELs because he prefers the light gathering of a 5mm+ exit pupil.

One of the best high end optics dealers on the planet is Jaret Owens in Ojai, CA. Jaret has a lifetime of guiding under his belt, has unbeatable pricing and treats people well. Give him a call at 805-551-6815 and tell him Colorado Cliff sent you.

Binocular Harness

- The original Alaska Guide Creations bino harnesses are a must have in our book.
- Kuio and other brands make nice harnesses

Rangefinder (optional)

- Vortex makes an economical, high-quality range finder. Several of the European glass brands have nice range finding binoculars.

Day pack

- A comfortable pack in the 1,300-2,200 cubic inch range

Camera

- Bring your charger and/or spare batteries

Water bottle and/or hydration bladder

- Sturdy bladders that go in your day pack are best

## **Personal Gear**

### **Sleeping bag**

- Let us know if you would like to borrow a sleeping bag. We have good bags and it will save you travel weight.
- A 20 degree rated bag is best.
- We prefer non-mummy type bags for comfort, this is personal preference

### **Personal Hygiene and Medication Items**

- Make sure you have enough of any prescriptions
- If you have had anaphylaxis (allergic reaction) to bees or other insects, please carry an Epi-Pen at all times.
- Pepto-Bismol and other routine medications can be helpful
- Carry personal Aspirin as an immediate treatment for heart attack or pain.  
(We carry extensive first aid kits in our guided camps. These include basic medication like Ibuprofen, Aspirin, Pepto, Imodium)

### **Chapstick and Sunscreen**

### **Sunglasses**

### **Bug spray**

An extra pair of eye glasses or contacts if you wear them

### **Super absorbent personal towel**

- REI sells lots of good options that are packable, dry quickly and absorb an astonishing amount of water.
- Another good option is the ShamWow towels. The price is right too!

A good book – never know if the weather will close down the hunt for a few hours