



M edvjedi u H rvatskoj

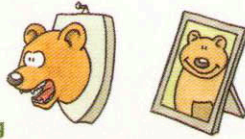
Bears in Croatia



Zašto su medvjedi važni

Why are bears important?

Za ljude | For mankind



• Trofejni Lov Trophy hunting

Smeđi medvjedi bili su tijekom stoljeća i uništavani i cijenjeni. Prvo su, kao i druge velike zvijeri, bili smatrani nepoželjnim i uništavani, a to je izazvalo njihov nestanak u gotovo cijeloj zapadnoj Europi. Potom su preostali medvjedi postali poželjni za trofejni lov. U nekim područjima njihov su broj održali lovci koji su i pomogli njihovom opstanku i porastu broja.

Brown bears have been both persecuted and valued through the centuries. Like other large carnivores, bears have been considered a menace and hunted down, resulting in reduced numbers in most of western Europe. More recently bears have been valued for trophy hunting. In some areas, their numbers were maintained by hunters who eventually helped bear populations survive and recover.



• Pokazatelj zdrave šume Sign of a healthy forest

Danas je postojanje zdrave medvjede populacije znak da su ovdje i šume visoke kvalitete, a time i dobar izvor drvene mase, šumskih plodova i lovnih životinja.

Today the presence of a healthy bear population is a sign of a high-quality forest and thus availability of resources such as timber, mushrooms, berries and game animals.

• Simbolička i tržna vrijednost Symbolic and market value

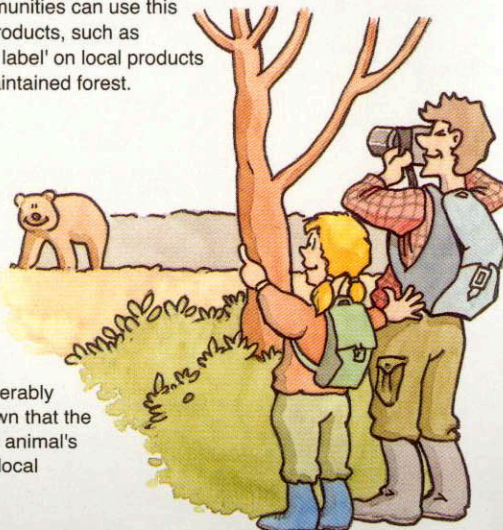
Medvjedi su simbol bogatstva prirode. Lokalna zajednica može rabiti taj simbol da poveća tržišnu vrijednost tradicionalnih proizvoda poput raznih rukotvorina. Tako bi izrada i uporaba "medvjede etikete" na lokalnim proizvodima značila da oni potječu iz dobro očuvanih šuma.

Bears are a symbol of the richness of nature. Local communities can use this symbol to increase the market value of local traditional products, such as handicrafts. For instance, the creation and use of a 'bear label' on local products would mean that the products are derived from a well-maintained forest.

• Vrijednost Turizma Value to tourism

Prisūće medvjeda može ljubiteljima prirode bitno unaprijediti iskustvo njihova boravka u divljini. Istraživanja su pokazala da većina stanovnika u područjima nastanjenim medvjedima u Hrvatskoj osjeća da ta životinja doprinosi turizmu i donosi gospodarsku korist lokalnoj zajednici.

For wildlife enthusiasts the presence of bears can considerably enhance their wilderness experience. Research has shown that the majority of residents in bear areas in Croatia feel that the animal's presence attracts tourists, bringing economic benefits to local communities.

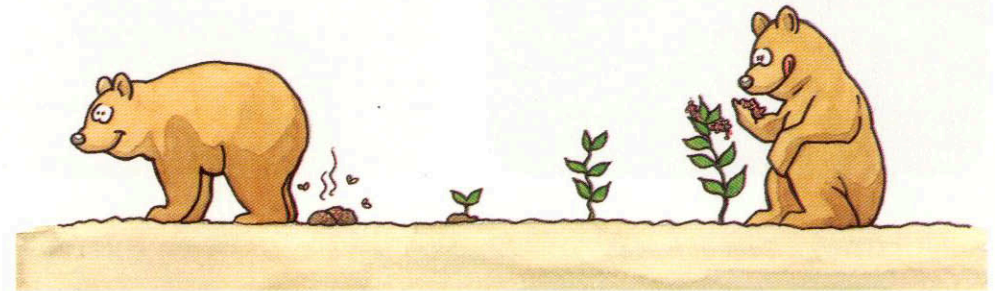


Za okoliš | For the environment

• Raznosiči sjemenki Seed dispersers

Medvjedi se kao svežderi hrane i biljkama i životinjama. Kao pretežni biljožder medvjed je važan raznosič neprobavljenih sjemenki po širokom prostoru svog kretanja.

Bears are omnivorous and feed on both plants and animals. However, being a primary plant feeder, the bear is an important seed disperser. Since the animal covers large distances, undigested seeds are carried further away and dispersed.



• Krovna vrsta Umbrella species

Za život medvjedi trebaju velika i mirna područja. Ta područja su ujedno i staništa ostalih urođenih vrsta i stoga se medvjede naziva "krovnom" vrstom. Čuvanje medvjedih staništa ima stoga pozitivni odjek na ostale vrste koje su manje karizmatičke ali jednako važne u očuvanju ravnoteže u ekosustavu.

Bears need large undisturbed areas to live in. These large areas also serve as habitat for other native species and bears are therefore known as **umbrella** species. Protecting bear habitats thus has a positive impact on other species that are less charismatic but equally important in maintaining the equilibrium of the ecosystem.

• Čistači prirode Nature's cleaners

Kao lešinari medvjedi pomažu "čišćenju" i procesima recikliranja u prirodi. Smanjivanjem mase neke lešine oni ubrzavaju rad prirodnih razgrađivača.

As scavengers, bears help in nature's cleaning up and recycling process. They reduce the amount of dead animals or carrion and make the rest more accessible to nature's decomposers.

Kao predatori medvjedi pomažu proces prirodne selekcije izlučivanjem slabijih jedinki.

As predators, bears help in nature's selection process by weeding out weaker animals.



Kako prepoznati da ste u području medvjeda?

How do you know you are in bear country?

POTRAŽITE LOOK FOR

Otiske šapa u blatu, prašini ili snijegu | Footprints in mud, dust or snow



Otiske medvjedih šapa je lako razlikovati od drugih životinja. Široki su 10 do 15 cm, sa po pet prstiju u pandži, Prednja šapa je kraća od stražnje. Kad ne bi imao pandže otisak stražnje šape nalikovao bi velikom otisku bose noge čovjeka.

A bear's paw prints are easy to differentiate from other animal footprints. They are 10 – 15 cm wide, with 5 toes and claws. The front foot is shorter than the hind. Without claws, the print of the hind foot may resemble a huge print of a man's bare foot.

Izmet | Scat or faeces



Izmet medvjeda je velik i različitih oblika i boja ovisno o hrani koju je pojeo. Medvjedi slabo probavljaju biljni materijal, a to olakšava prepoznavanje sadržaja izmeta. Miris izmeta je blag i nije neugodan.

Bear scat is large and of various shapes and colours depending on the food ingested. Bears digest plant matter poorly and this often helps in the identification of the food items. Bear scat also has a faint and inoffensive odour.

Tragovi na mjestu hranjenja | Feeding activity



Znakovi medvjedeg hranjenja ovise o vrsti hrane, ali obično je lišće razgrnuto na širem području šumskog poda, posebno kada traži bukvice. Na mrtvim životinjama potražite ogrebotine pandžama na koži i zubima izvrnutu unutarnju stranu kože.

Although signs of a bear's feeding depend on the food item, there are usually disturbed leaves in large areas on the forest floor. For instance a bear's foraging for beech nuts will leave signs of its activity in the form of scattered leaves. Also look for claw marks on skins of dead animals, and teeth marks on skin turned inside out.

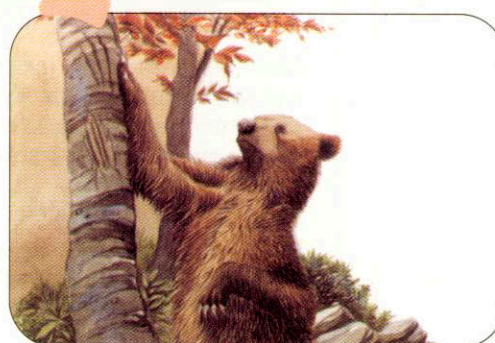
Zimski brlog | Winter bed



Medvjed zimuje u šuplinama stijena ili pod korijenima velikog stabla. Brlog obično sadrži ležaj od grančica, suhe trave ili lišća. Ulaz je obično uzak i čovjek treba puzati po trbuhu da bi ušao.

Bears winter in cavities among rocks or under the roots of a big tree. The den usually contains a bed of conifer twigs, dry grass and leaves. The entrance is normally quite narrow.

Oznake na stablu | Tree marks



Medvjedi se češu o koru stabla ostavljajući mirise kao znak svog prisuća. Potražite paralelne ogrebotine od pandži i do 2 m u visinu, te smolu koja se cijedi iz jele ili smreke.

Bears scratch themselves on tree barks leaving behind fur and smells signaling the animal's presence. Look for parallel scratch marks caused by bears' claws up to a height of 2 m and sap leaking from a fir or spruce.

Dnevni ležaj | Day bed

Preko dana medvjed se odmara na padini iza kojeg većeg stabla ili grma. Može se vidjeti kako je uklonio lišće sa tla u krugu od 50 do 90 cm.

Bears rest on slopes behind big trees or under bushes during the day. Look for leaves that have been scattered to form a circular space of about 50 – 90 cm.

Pravila ponašanja u staništu medvjeda

Bear country rules

Ne hranite medvjede Do not feed bears

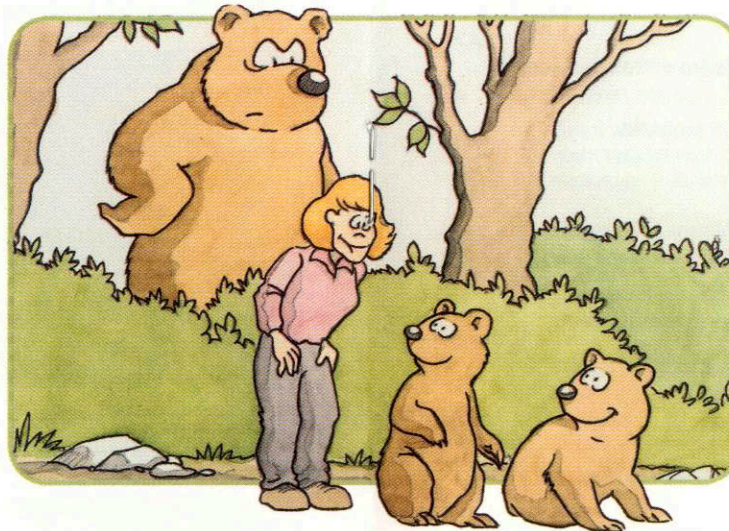


Sve organsko smeće ponosite sa sobom iz staništa medvjeda i pazite da hrana ne bude dostupna medvjedima. Odbačena hrana i njeni ostaci, kao i smetlišta privlače medvjede. Neki medvjedi dolaze redovito na smetlišta, a ti onda mogu početi tražiti hranu i iz drugih ljudskih izvora, te izazivati štete.

Take organic rubbish away with you and make sure all food is inaccessible to bears. Food including discarded remains and that left in rubbish dumps attracts bears. Some bears may make regular forays to rubbish dumps, and can cause damage in their search for food from human sources.



Ne prilazite medvjedu niti ne bježite od njega Do not approach bears or run away from them

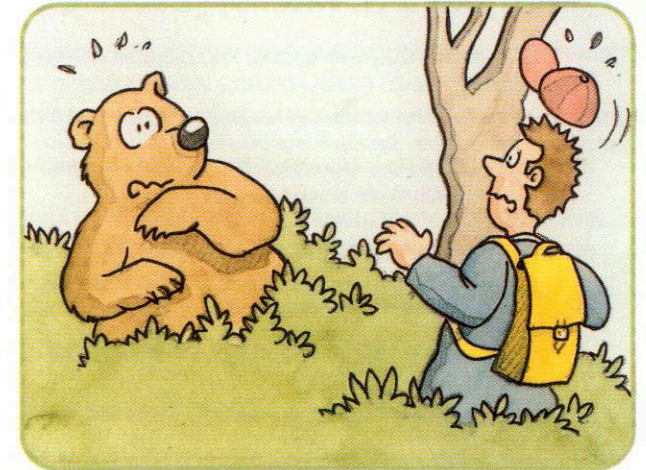


Medvjede promatrajte iz daljine, a pogotovo medvjediće. Medvjedu koji se kreće prema vama sklonite se sa puta. U slučaju iznenadnog susreta na blizinu nemojte bježati nego samo dajte mjesta medvjedu da se povuče. Bježanje može izazvati medvjeda da vas proganja.

Observe bears only from a distance, particularly cubs. Move away from the path of any bear walking towards you. In case of a close encounter, do not run but give space for the bear to retreat. Running may provoke the bear to chase you.

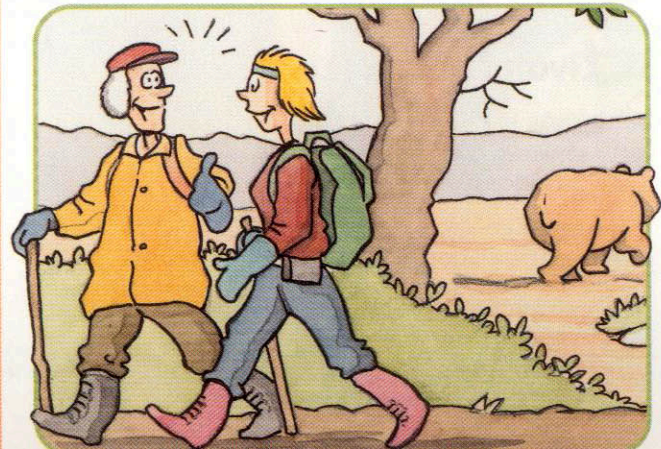


Nemojte iznenaditi medvjeda Do not surprise bears



Dok se krećete područjem medvjeda sa gustom vegetacijom budite dovoljno glasni da vas medvjed može čuti na udaljenost od oko 30 m. Ako se krećete tiho možete se naći unutar prostora medvjede osobne sigurnosti. Medvjed se može osjetiti ugroženim i vidjeti aktivnu obranu kao jedini izlaz, i to posebno ako se radi o medvjedici sa mladima.

When walking in bear areas with dense vegetation, make your presence heard. Be loud enough for the bear to hear you from a distance of about 30 m. If you walk quietly you may find yourself within the bear's personal space. The bear may feel cornered and see active defence as the only solution, especially if the bear is wounded or a mother with cubs.



Činjenice o medvjedima

Facts about bears

Medvjedi u Hrvatskoj | Bears in Croatia

- Smeđi medvjed (*Ursus arctos*) koji živi u Hrvatskoj jedna je od osam vrsta medvjeda u svijetu.
Brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) that live in Croatia are one of eight bear species of the world.
- Procjenjuje se da u Hrvatskoj živi 400 do 600 medvjeda.
An estimated 400 to 600 brown bears live in Croatia.

Stanište | Habitat

- Medvjedi žive u velikim i neprekinutim područjima sa bogatim i raznolikim biljnim pokrovom.
Bears live in large unfragmented areas with dense and diverse vegetation cover.
- Životni prostor pojedinog medvjeda u Hrvatskoj kreće se, ovisno o spolu i dobi, od 100 do 300 km².
In Croatia, depending on sex and age, each bear may live in an area covering 100 to 300 sq km.

Hrana | Food

- Iako su najveći predstavnici porodice zvijeri, medvjedi pretežno jedu biljnu hranu poput bobica, tvrdih plodova i gomolja. Prehrana uključuje kukce, druge beskralješnjake, te lešine životinja. U rijedim prilikama napda i stoku.
A peculiarity of bears is that although they are the largest member of the carnivore family, they feed predominantly on plant matter such as berries, nuts and tubers. Their diet is also composed of insects, other invertebrates and carrion. On rare occasions they prey on livestock.

Životni ciklus | Life cycle

- Trajanje života medvjeda u prirodi ovisi o raznim činiocima. Mogu ponekad doživjeti i preko 20 godina.
Depending on various factors, the life span of a bear in the wild varies. They can, however, live over 20 years.
- Medvjedi se pare početkom ljeta, a rađaju zimi.
Bears mate in the early summer and give birth in the winter.
- Smeđi medvjedi spavaju zimski san (prosinac-ožujak), tijekom kojega zrele ženke svake druge godine rađaju leglo od 1 do 4 medvjedića.
Brown bears hibernate in winter (December-March) and mature females give birth during their hibernation to a litter of 1 to 4 cubs every 2 years on average.

Društvena struktura | Social structure

- Medvedi žive samotno ali komuniciraju sa drugim medvjedima, putem oznaka na stablima i raznih mirisnih znakova. Time označuju svoje prisuće i brane izvore hrane.
Bears are solitary but maintain communication with other bears. By making marks on trees and leaving their scent they let each other know that they are present in an area and these may also signify claim on food resources. Failure to heed such marks may result in the death of the weaker bear.
- Ponašanje medvjeda je različito i svaka jedinka razvija vlastitu strategiju preživljavanja. Većina je medvjeda, ipak, oportunistička, a to se brzo razvija u naučeno ponašanje.
Bear behaviour varies from animal to animal and each individual develops its own strategy for survival. However, most bears have opportunistic behaviour which quickly turns into learnt behaviour.



Razlozi ugroženosti medvjeda

Threats to bears



Promjene staništa

Udio smreke se povećao šumarskim zahvatima, a na račun zrele bukve koja daje bukvicu, glavnu medvjeđu hranu u jesen.

Habitat change

Mature beech whose nuts are the bear's primary food in autumn have in many areas been replaced through silvicultural intervention by managed spruce stands.



Smetlišta u staništu medvjeda

Medvjedi se brzo nauče na hranu iz ljudskih izvora i postupno gube prirodni strah od ljudi.

Rubbish dumps left in and around bear territory

These result in bears getting accustomed to easy food from human sources and so gradually losing their natural fear of people.



Pruge, autoputovi i šumske ceste kroz stanište

Oni komadaju stanište, unose nemir, a predstavljaju i izravnu opasnost za medvjede koji ih prelaze.

Railroads, highways and forest roads running through bear habitat

These fragment bear habitat, introduce disturbance, and pose a danger to roaming bears.



Rasprostranjenje medvjeda u Hrvatskoj

Distribution of bears in Croatia



Smeđi su medvjedi svojedobno bili rasprostranjeni po cijeloj Europi, ali se njihov prostor jako smanjio nakon stoljeća istrjebljivanja. Zahvaljujući akcijama zaštite danas im broj ponovo raste u nekim zemljama. U Hrvatskoj je broj medvjeda stabilan i žive u brdima koja pokrivaju oko 20% površine zemlje.

The range of brown bears once covered all Europe, but after centuries of persecution, their numbers are much reduced. Following conservation actions bear numbers are increasing in some countries. In Croatia bear numbers are currently stable and the animal is found in the mountains which cover 20% of the country.

Concept and supervision: Francesca Antonelli and Pedro Regato

Text and translation: Djuro Huber

Coordination: Francesca Antonelli

Graphic design: Raffaella Gemma

Illustrations and front cover photograph: Federico Gemma

Photographs: Djuro Huber

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