



WARNING!

BISON CAN BE DANGEROUS!



BISON SAFETY

- **Stay at least 125 ft away from any bison!** *Note: there is no guaranteed safe distance*
- **They may appear docile, but can be defensive if they feel threatened.**
- **Do not approach bison to take pictures or for any other reason. Your bison selfie isn't worth your life!**
- **Bison can weigh up to 1800 lbs and can run up to 35 mph.**

PREVENTING ENCOUNTERS

Use common sense, observe the animal for agitated behaviors, and plan ahead

- Keep an eye out for bison at all times. Scan the area ahead to see if bison are present.
- *Bison can be present anywhere on the Island.*
- Make noise when hiking (e.g. talking, clapping) to prevent surprising a bison.
- Solitary bulls are encountered frequently, in unexpected places, and can be startled easily.
- Bison often respond negatively to dogs and cyclists. Keep your dog on a leash and well away from bison. Walk your bike if you come across a bison.
- Avoid female bison with calves; they are extremely protective of their young.
- Avoid using earbuds while hiking, jogging or cycling as they may prevent you from detecting a bison that is nearby.
- Many roads and trails on Catalina have high banks, thick brush or steep drop-offs, making bison difficult to see. Bison like to use the roads and trails and prefer to continue in the direction they are going.

BE ALERT IN LOW VISIBILITY AREAS AND STAY OUT OF A BISON'S WAY.

SIGNS OF AGITATED BEHAVIOR

- Raising their tail up
- Pawing at the ground
- Continually staring at you
- Swaying head from side-to-side
- Bellowing or huffing
- Side-posturing

Slowly retreat from any bison showing any such sign. Wait for the bison/herd to move on or find another less visible or more distant route around the animal(s).

WHAT TO DO IF CHARGED

Tip: Get in the habit of planning escape routes. Look for things to hide behind (brushes, trees, poles).

- Use your escape route and hide.
- Act assertively, yell loudly and/or vigorously wave your arms.
- Throw something that may break their gaze or concentration on you.
- If you cannot avoid contact, get as low to the ground as possible and protect your head and torso.
- Playing dead may stop an attack.

Report safety concerns to Conservancy Rangers at (310) 510-2595 • Dial 911 for emergencies

For more information on bison behavior, contact Conservation Department Wildlife Biologists at (310) 510-1299



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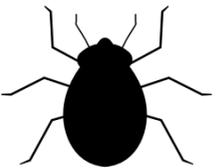
You are entering a wild area. Inherent dangers exist within wild areas. Be cautious of the following:



Bison are wild animals and can cause serious injury and even death. Bison can be present anywhere on the Island. Never approach, touch or attempt to feed bison. Be alert in low visibility areas and stay out of a bison's way. Be in the habit of planning escape routes and look for objects to hide behind. Slowly retreat from bison showing signs of stress or agitation. Report unusual bison behavior to Conservancy rangers.



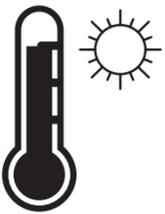
Rattlesnakes are present year-round. However, they are more commonly seen in warm weather. If you, or someone in your group is bitten by a rattlesnake, quick medical attention is critical. Any bite from a rattlesnake should be regarded as a life-threatening medical emergency that requires immediate treatment from trained medical professionals.



Ticks are found on the Island and may cause Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. To avoid tick bites, wear insect repellent, tuck pant legs into your socks and avoid walking in high grass and brush. Examine clothing and skin frequently for ticks, especially in and around hair. Carefully remove attached ticks immediately.



Poison oak is common in Catalina's canyons and creek-beds. Staying on established trails and wearing long pants and long-sleeve shirts are the best defenses. If you brush against poison oak, wash the affected area as soon as possible with a poison oak soap (e.g. Tecnu) or soap and cold water. Remove all affected clothing directly to a washing machine. It is easy to re-spread the oils after your hike. Not everyone is allergic or allergic after their first exposure to poison oak.



Heat-related illnesses, like heat exhaustion or heat stroke, happen when the body is not able to properly cool itself and can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs. The Island is an arid, low-humidity environment. Dehydration and heat stroke or exhaustion are always risks. On a sunny, hot day, you can lose up to a liter of water an hour just standing still. Reliable, safe water can only be found at established campgrounds or facilities. The rule of thumb in arid environments is one gallon of water a day for a full day of hiking. Make sure to carry plenty of water and beware of the symptoms of heat-related illnesses.



The Island has many steep cliffs, drop-offs and rough terrain. Watch out for loose soil, falling rocks and otherwise dangerous terrain. Use caution at all times while on the Island.



Due to Catalina Island's hot, dry weather and high winds, wildfires can spread easily and quickly. Open flames are only permitted at designated campground fire pits. Never let your campfire get too big and have water nearby to keep it under control. Never leave your campfire unattended. When you are done, fully extinguish by soaking it, stirring it, and soaking it again.



Catalina Island is vulnerable to tsunamis. A tsunami is a series of waves commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor. They can cause loss of life and property damages. Be aware of earthquakes, water receding, exposing the ocean floor and a loud ocean roar. If you observe any of these warning signs, immediately go to higher ground or inland. A tsunami may arrive within minutes and last for hours.



PROPOSITION 65 WARNING: (Section 25249.6 et seq.) Naturally occurring asbestos is found in rocks and soil in various locations on Catalina Island. Exposure to items found on the property of the Santa Catalina Island Conservancy could contain chemicals and particles known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.



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