



## The Bear Essentials of Hershey

In Hershey, Pennsylvania, affectionately known as “**The Sweetest Place On Earth,**” guests find the theme and smell of chocolate around every corner. In fact, the iconic Hershey’s Kiss has become the town’s unofficial symbol.

But nearly as often as they see Kisses, visitors to Hershey can also see bears. So 2010, when the destination is celebrating 100 years of a zoo in Hershey, seems the perfect time to point out some of the many places one can spot bears around town.

The first ursine residents arrived in Hershey on May 13, 1910, when Milton S. Hershey acquired two black bears, Bob and Mag, to add to his zoo’s collection. But that was just the beginning. Here’s a list of some of the bears guests can look for on their next visit to Hershey:

- **ZooAmerica:** Since the earliest days of Hershey Zoo, bears have been among the most popular exhibits. Today **ZooAmerica** is home to two American black bears, Butch and Sally, who enjoy frolicking in the habitat built for them in 1999. Guests can visit the habitat during regular Zoo hours or get an up-close glimpse during the After-Hours Tour that’s offered Wednesday and Saturday nights for \$35 per person. A highlight of the tour is watching Butch and Sally snack on walnuts, grapes and their very favorite treat, peanut butter.
- **Hersheypark:** Opened in 1998, the **Great Bear** roller coaster quickly became a guest favorite. The steel coaster takes riders on a wild ride filled with loops and turns. Guests liken the sound of the coaster cars rushing along the track to the noise made by a growling bear.
- **Hershey Bears Hockey:** Hershey’s American Hockey League (AHL) team hits the ice at **Giant** Center for home games on weekends from October through April for regular-season play. The Bears were known as the Hershey B’ars from 1932 to 1936, but were criticized for being too commercial. So they added the “E” to their

name and continued to make history. The team is the oldest continuously operating franchise in the AHL, and the winner of more Calder Cups than any other team in the league.

- *The Bears' Den:* Established in 2000 at **Hershey Lodge**, this fun, hockey-themed family dining venue offers American fare. A favorite menu item is the "Big Bear" burger.
- *Coco the Bear:* The **Hershey Bears'** #1 fan and ambassador since 1978, the hockey team's mascot can be seen at all Hershey home games. Coco also likes to stop by **ZooAmerica** during special events.