

Press Information June 2012

Kodiak Bear - the world's largest land predator

Kodiak Bears (*Ursus arctos middendorffi*) are the world's largest land predators and live wild on Kodiak Island in Alaska. Since the bears are living on an island they cannot spread -out, but are found naturally only in one place. Kodiak Island is a sanctuary for Kodiak Bears, and Orsa Bear Park has been reviewed and selected as the only park in the world to receive the Kodiak Bears.

Twice as big as the Scandinavian brown bears

Kodiak Bears are about twice as large as ordinary Scandinavian brown bears. Males can weigh up to 800-900 kg and females a little smaller can weigh up to 500 kg. Like other brown bears, Kodiak bears have a robust body, long, strong limbs and a big head.

Kodiak bears are omnivorous and feed on grasses, berries, roots, meat and fish. They like to catch salmon and when the salmon migrate several Kodiak Bears can be in the same area to catch fish.

Few people, and many bears on Kodiak Island

Kodiak Island has 12 000 inhabitants with about 3000 bears. The hunt is limited to approximately 150 individuals with a turnover of SEK 25 million. Kodiak bears contribute to the tourism industry in Alaska with organized photo safaris and expeditions to see the mighty Bears.

Taquka - two years and 250 kg

The Kodiak bear coming to Orsa Bear Park is named Taquka and is two years old and weighs about 250 pounds. He was taken into custody on Kodiak Island after his mother had been shot in the annual bear hunt in December 2010. Since then, he has lived at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) on the mainland of Alaska.

Taquka is the word for bear in the language spoken by the indigenous population around the vicinity of Kodiak Island.

New home with everything a bear could want

Taquka will live in Kodiak Island – Land of Giants, a newly built facility with 20 000 square meters containing both forests, rivers, small lakes with live trout. Over the area is a pedestrian bridge 4-6 feet above the ground for visitors to get close look at the bears. There is also a viewing center with windows strategically positioned in the area.

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