

Red Panda Facts

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



BASIC INFORMATION

Common Name: Red Panda

Scientific Name: *Ailurus fulgens*

Conservation status: Endangered

Where do they live?

Red pandas are found in the mountain forests of Nepal, India, Bhutan, China and Myanmar (Burma).

Are they related to Giant Pandas?

Red Pandas are most closely related to racoons and are similar to giant pandas and bears but are now in a 'family' of their own.

What do they do?

Red pandas are most active in the early morning and late afternoon spending most of the day resting in trees conserving their energy. Red pandas are normally solitary creatures but come together in pairs in the breeding season.

What do they eat?

Although classified as a carnivore, red pandas eat mainly bamboo leaves, grass and fruit. Occasionally they will eat an egg, insect or small animal.

How long do they stay with their mother?

After three months growing in their mother, cubs are born into a nest made of twigs and grass. Newborn cubs are covered in thick gray fur and their eyes and ears are closed. The cubs will emerge from the nest at about three months of age but stay with their mother until the next breeding season starts.

How long do red pandas live?

In zoos, red pandas can live up to 14 years. We think they live for around 7-8 years in the wild. They are ready to have babies (cubs) after they are a year old.

Why are they endangered?

Red pandas are nearly extinct in the western part of their range because their forest home is being cut down.

INTERESTING FACTS

1. **The red panda is the ORIGINAL panda.** It was first described in 1821, 48 years before the giant panda was found.
2. **The origin of the name "Panda"** is the Nepalese word for red panda - "Nigalya poonya" - which means "eater of bamboo."
3. **The Chinese name for the red panda is hunho or firefox,** due to their colour and similar size to a fox. The web browser "Firefox" is named after them.
4. **Like giant pandas,** red pandas have an extra "thumb," which is an enlarged bone for grabbing bamboo stems.
5. **Red pandas claws are sharp** and can be pulled back like a cat.
6. **A red panda eats** approximately 200,000 bamboo leaves daily.
7. **Red pandas red and black color** camouflages them from their predators. The red on their backs is exactly the same color as moss found on the trees where they live. The black on their stomach makes it difficult to see them from below.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Adopt-a-Panda
- Become a Red Panda Ranger
- Host a Red Panda Party
- Class Project: Jump Rope Auction Hopping

Red Panda Network

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