



WALKING WITH LIONS

LEOPARDS & PANTHERS FACTS

All black or melanistic leopards, sometimes commonly called Black Panthers, are born in the same litter as spotted cats and also carry the rosette markings, although these are masked by the darkness of the fur.

Each leopard has its own spot pattern, just as people have different fingerprints.

Pound for pound, leopards are the strongest among big cats. A leopard can climb as high as 50 feet up a tree holding a dead animal in its mouth, even one larger and heavier than itself!

When it's time for a rest, leopards like to climb trees and sprawl out on the branches. They are the largest cats to climb trees regularly.

Leopards are the most successful and cunning among big cats. Leopards can also hunt from trees, where their spotted coats (called "rosettes") allow them to blend with the leaves until they spring with a deadly pounce.

Leopards are strong swimmers and very much at home in the water, where they sometimes eat fish.

Leopards hunt about 90 different species of animals. Diet consists of mostly monkeys, rodents, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish, wild pigs, and ungulates (hoofed mammals).

Leopards can hear five times more sounds than humans, even the ultrasonic squeaks made by mice.

The Snow Leopard is a most remarkable cat that operates in extremely difficult terrain and climate conditions at the top of the world - the Himalayas.

The Clouded Leopard has the longest canines amongst cat species.

Leopards have incredible strength. They stash food up high so other predators like lions or hyenas can't get it. Then they can return and eat more.

Leopards hunt at night. They use their vision and keen hearing while hunting, not their sense of smell. Leopards stalk and pounce but don't usually chase their prey long distances. They grab their prey or swat it, using their retractable claws. Prey is killed with a bite to the throat.

Like all young cats, leopard cubs like to play "stalk, pounce, and chase." Have you ever seen a house cat creep slowly after a bird or mouse? That's stalking. A quick leap and a grab with the claws is a pounce, and the chase comes if the prey gets away. Leopard cubs play by practicing these behaviors on their brothers, sisters, and even on their mother. It's a good way to learn how to survive when they get older.

Leopard Sub Species:

African Leopard (*Panthera pardus pardus*) lower risk, least concern
Amur Leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) critically endangered
Arabian leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*) critically endangered
Barbary Leopard (*Panthera pardus panthera*) critically endangered
Indian Leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) lower risk
Anatolian Leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) critically endangered
Indo-Chinese Leopard (*Panthera pardus delacouri*) vulnerable

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Java Leopard (*Panthera pardus meas*) endangered
North China Leopard (*Panthera pardus japonensis*) vulnerable
Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*) endangered
Sinai Leopard (*Panthera pardus jarvisi*) critically endangered
Sri Lanka Leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*) endangered
Zanzibar Leopard (*Panthera pardus adersi*) extinct