



# ADÉLIE PENGUIN

The Adélie penguin is one of the smallest and most widely found penguins in the Antarctic. They are one of only two penguin species that spend the winter in Antarctica. Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.



## Where they live

Adélie penguins live in Antarctica, which is a polar desert surrounded by the ocean. It's extremely cold but they can survive very cold conditions.

[wwf.org.uk/wildlife/adelie\\_penguin](http://wwf.org.uk/wildlife/adelie_penguin)



## CHARACTERISTICS

- Black and white markings and distinctive tail make them look like they are wearing a tuxedo.
- White rings around their eyes.
- About 70cm tall and weigh 3-6kg.
- Feeding trips range from 5-96 hours.
- When travelling across snowy terrain, Adélie penguins can save energy by sliding across the snow on their front, using their flippers and feet to propel themselves forwards.

## DID YOU KNOW

Adélie penguins may not be able to fly across the sky, but they can fly underwater, flapping their wings to propel themselves at speeds as well as any fish can swim and they can dive up to depths of 175 metres.

## FAMILY

Adélie penguins live in a colony – a large group of hundreds or thousands of penguins. When Adélie penguins find a partner, they will stay together for life. Both of them will help to raise their young, starting with taking turns to incubate the eggs when they are laid and looking after the chicks until they are three weeks old. The female lays one or two eggs. The chicks fledge (get their adult feathers) around 52-61 days old.



## VIDEO Watch footage:

- [arkive.org/adelie-penguin/pygoscelis-adeliae/video-00.html](http://arkive.org/adelie-penguin/pygoscelis-adeliae/video-00.html)
- [arkive.org/adelie-penguin/pygoscelis-adeliae/video-12a.html](http://arkive.org/adelie-penguin/pygoscelis-adeliae/video-12a.html)
- [arkive.org/adelie-penguin/pygoscelis-adeliae/video-12b.html](http://arkive.org/adelie-penguin/pygoscelis-adeliae/video-12b.html)

## FEEDING

- They hunt by swimming in the sea and tend to catch food close to the surface.
- Their main food source is krill which breed under the sea ice but a few small fish are often on the menu too.

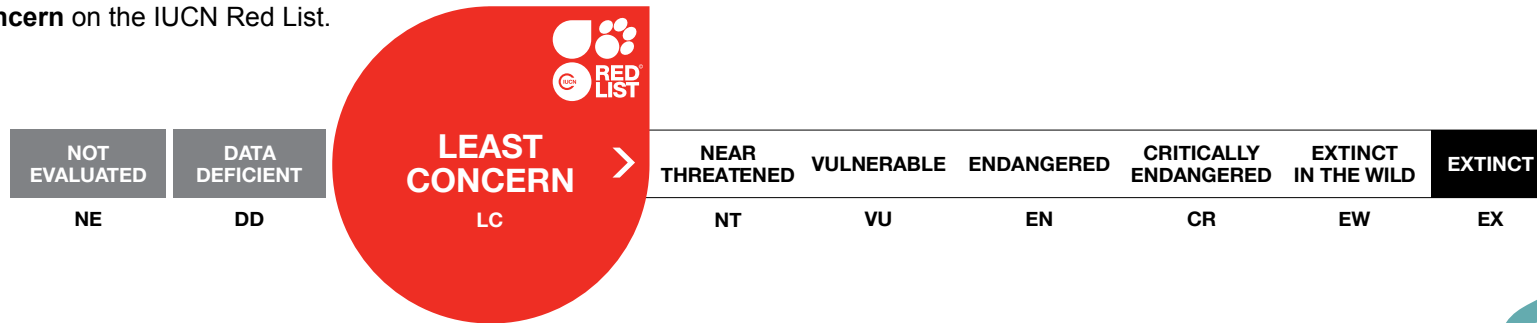


## DID YOU KNOW

Adélie penguins spend most of their time at sea or on the sea ice. They return to land to nest between October and April, which is the summer in Antarctica!

## CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Least Concern** on the IUCN Red List.



## STATUS

Climate change and warming oceans reduce some of their feeding grounds and ultimately their habitat, which impacts on their food sources. Adélie penguins may also lose ground to gentoo penguins, which are better adapted to warming Antarctic environments. Overfishing and oil pollution from shipping accidents are also threats to their population and environment.



The species could decline by around 46% by 2099 due to climate change. Conservation efforts are being undertaken to improve the way Antarctica, including Marine Protected Areas, is managed and also working to understand the impacts of climate change on their natural habitat.

