



EMPEROR PENGUIN

The emperor penguin is the largest of all the penguins. They are one of only two penguin species that spend the winter in Antarctica.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

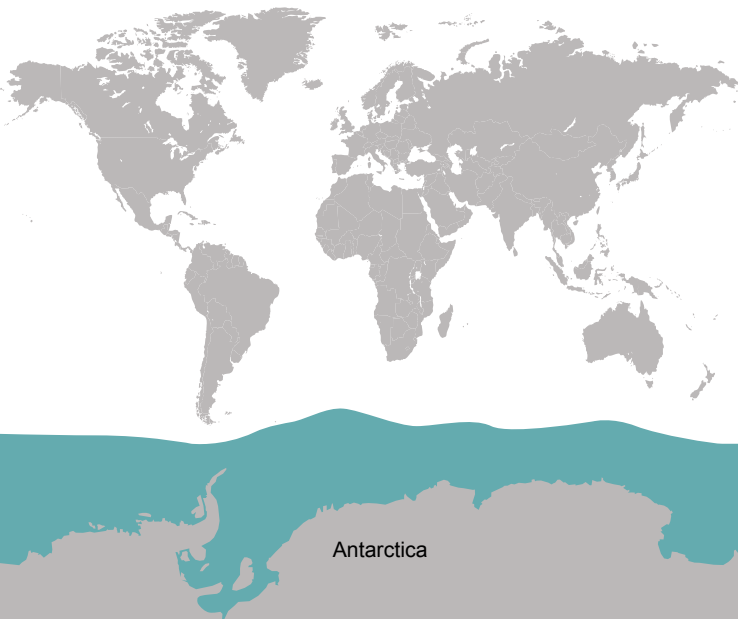


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Where they live

Emperor penguins live in Antarctica, which is a polar desert surrounded by the ocean. It's extremely cold but they can survive the harshest of winters.

www.bas.ac.uk/about/antarctica/wildlife/penguins/emperor-penguin/



Antarctica

CHARACTERISTICS

- Black back and tail, and a characteristically white belly flushed with gold.
- Distinctive deep golden ear patches on either side of their head that fade down the neck and upper chest.
- More than 1m tall and weigh up to 40 kg.
- Like all penguins they can't fly, so waddle clumsily on land or slide along the ice; in water however, they glide and dive effortlessly.

DID YOU KNOW

Emperor penguins are the world's largest living penguin. To prevent heat loss, they have a proportionally smaller beak and flippers compared to other penguins.

FAMILY

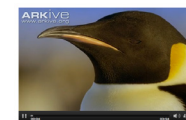
When a female lays an egg she passes it to the male who keeps it warm by balancing it on top of his feet and covering it with a flap of skin. While the female penguin returns to the sea for two months to feed, the male incubates the egg.

Huge colonies of males huddle together to stay warm, with individuals taking turns to stand at the outer edge of the huddle where it is coldest. Males do not eat while they incubate the egg and can lose up to 45% of their body weight.

After two months the chicks hatch and the male brings up food from his stomach to feed it. Then the female penguin returns from the sea and takes over.

VIDEO

Watch footage:



- arkive.org/emperor-penguin/aptenodytes-forsteri/video-00.html
- arkive.org/emperor-penguin/aptenodytes-forsteri/video-09.html
- arkive.org/emperor-penguin/aptenodytes-forsteri/video-17.html

FEEDING

- They hunt in the open sea or underneath the sea-ice.
- They feed mainly on fish, squid and krill.

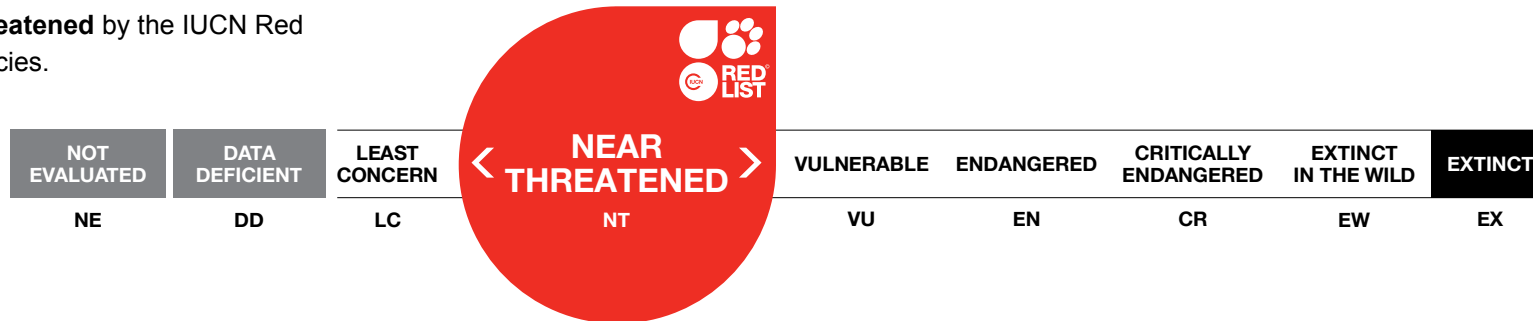


DID YOU KNOW

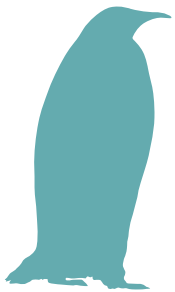
Emperors have by far the deepest and longest dives of any bird. They often reach depths of over 200 metres, and can stay submerged for up to 18 minutes.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Near Threatened** by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



STATUS



Climate change and warming oceans are predicted in the longer term to reduce the extent of Antarctic sea-ice, which would result in the loss of large areas of their breeding habitat.

Overfishing and oil pollution from shipping accidents are also threats to their population and environment.

Their population is projected to undergo quite a rapid decline over the next three generations due to the effects of climate change. Conservation efforts are being undertaken to improve the way Antarctica is managed and also working to reduce the impacts of climate change.

