

# 21st Century Tiger Tiger Facts Subspecies, Habitat and Distribution



## Tiger; sub-species, habitat and distribution

- **Order:** Carnivora
- **Family:** Felidae
- **Genus/species:** *Panthera tigris*
- A century ago there were approximately 100,000 tigers in the wild.
- Today only 3,600 to 4,600 remain.
- Three sub-species of tiger are already extinct; Javan, Caspian and Bali.
- Six subspecies remain: Amur, South China, Indian, Malayan, Indochinese and Sumatran tigers. Min and max no. remaining are approximate.
- Amur tiger (*P.t. altaica*). Min 437, max 506.
- Indian (Bengal) tiger (*P.t. tigris*). Min 1300, max 2000.
- N. Indochinese tiger (*P.t. corbetti*) & Malayan tiger (*P.t. jacksoni*). Min 800, max 1500.
- South China tiger (*P.t. amoyensis*). Min 0, max 30.
- Sumatran tiger (*P.t. sumatrae*). Min 300, max 500.
- IUCN – Classification Critically Endangered (South China and Sumatran tigers) or Endangered.
- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) lists tigers in Appendix I signifying that they are threatened with extinction.
- The oldest tiger fossils are around two million years old and come from northern China and Java.
- Tigers have been wiped out of 93% of their historical range.
- Tigers once roamed through vast tracts of forest stretching across Asia. Now they only exist in isolated, usually small populations in widely scattered forests. Tigers are currently found in thirteen Asian range states: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam. They may still persist in North Korea, although there has been no recent confirmed evidence.
- The Amur tiger lives in the Russian Far East and along the adjoining Chinese border. It is widely recognised as the largest of the tiger subspecies and lives in both temperate forests and boreal taiga forests (where temperatures are low and trees are mostly cold-tolerant coniferous varieties).
- On the Indonesian island of Sumatra you find the smallest and darkest subspecies, the Sumatran tiger. It lives in a habitat varying from tropical lowland forest, sub mountain and mountain forest to the peat swamp forests in eastern Sumatra.
- The Indian tiger lives in a wide range of habitats, including the high-altitude, cold, coniferous Himalayan forests, the steaming mangroves of the Bangladesh Sunderbans, the swampy reedlands, the scorched hills of the Indian peninsula, the lush wet forests of Northern India, and the arid forests of Rajasthan.
- The Malayan tiger is found only in the Malay Peninsula, southern tip of Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia. None are found in East Malaysia. Habitat varies from peat swamp and lowland forest to sub mountain forest.
- N. Indochinese tigers are concentrated in Thailand and also in Myanmar, southern China, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. They live in remote forests in hilly to mountainous terrain, much of which lies along the borders between countries.



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