

Animals information

The Arctic has many large land animals including reindeer, musk ox, lemmings, arctic hares, arctic terns, snowy owls, squirrels, arctic fox and polar bears. As the Arctic is a part of the land masses of Europe, North America and Asia, these animals can migrate south in the winter and head back to the north again in the more productive summer months. There are a lot of these animals in total because the Arctic is so big. The land isn't so productive however so large concentrations are very rare and predators tend to have very large ranges in order to be able to get enough to eat in the longer term.

There are also many kinds of large marine animals such as walrus and seals such as the bearded, harp, ringed, spotted and hooded. Narwhals and other whales are present but not as plentiful as they were in pre-whaling days.

The largest land animal in the Antarctic is an insect, a wingless midge, *Belgica antarctica*, less than 1.3cm (0.5in) long. There are no flying insects (they'd get blown away).

There are however a great many animals that feed in the sea though come onto the land for part or most of their lives, these include huge numbers of adeliie, chinstrap, gentoo, king, emperor, rockhopper and macaroni penguins. Fur, leopard, Weddell, elephant and crabeater seals (crabeater seals are the second most populous large mammal on the planet after man) and many other kinds of birds such as albatrosses and assorted petrels. There are places in Antarctica where the wildlife reaches incredible densities, the more so for not suffering any human hunting.

Arctic Animals - A List of Animals Found in the Arctic

Antarctic animals - south polar

Land Mammals



Arctic Fox - *Vulpes lagopus*



Arctic Hare - *Lepus arcticus*



Arctic Wolf - *Canis lupus arctos*



Caribou / Reindeer - *Rangifer tarandus*



Moose - *Alces alces*



Dall Sheep - *Ovis dalli*



Ermine - *Mustela erminea*



Lemming - *Lemmus lemmus*



Musk Ox - *Ovibos moschatus*

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Polar Bear - *Ursus maritimus*



Arctic Tern - *Sterna paradisaea*



Sea Otter - *Enhydra lutris*



Bald Eagle - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



Snowshoe Hare / Snowshoe Rabbit
Lepus americanus



Canada Goose - *Branta canadensis*



Wolverine - *Gulo gulo*



Brunnich's Guillemots - *Uria lomvia*

Birds



Arctic Skua - *Stercorarius parasiticus*



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Ptarmigan - *Lagopus muta*



Puffin - *Fratercula arctica*



Snowy Owl - *Bubo scandiacus*



Snow Goose - *Chen caerulescens*

Other Animals



Arctic Woolly Bear Moth (caterpillar)
Gynaephora groenlandica



Beluga Whale - *Delphinapterus leucas*



Greenland Shark
Somniosus microcephalus



Narwhal - *Monodon monoceros*



Orca - *Orcinus orca*



Bearded Seal - *Erignathus barbatus*



Harp Seal - *Pagophilus groenlandicus*



Hooded Seal - *Cystophora cristata*



Ribbon Seal - *Histiophoca fasciata*



Ringed Seal - *Pusa hispida*



Spotted Seal - *Phoca largha*



Walrus - *Odobenus rosmarus*

Antarctic Animals - A List of Animals Found in Antarctica

[Arctic animals here - north polar](#)

Antarctica has an abundance of animal life, almost all of it being dependent on the sea. The largest truly land animal is a wingless midge about 13mm / 0.5 of an inch long. As the animal life is dependent on the sea and are mainly warm blooded, they tend to be pretty large as a survival technique against the extreme and relentless cold. That Antarctica can support such an abundance of large animals is a result of the productivity of the southern polar sea. Follow the link for the animal to find facts and more pictures.

Penguins



[Emperor penguins](#)

Aptenodytes forsteri



King Penguins
Aptenodytes patagonica



Gentoo penguin
Pygoscelis papua

Whales and Seals



Adelie penguin
Pygoscelis adeliae



Whale species
Species and lifestyle



Chinstrap penguin
Pygoscelis antarctica



Weddell seals
Leptonychotes weddelli



Southern Fur seal
Arctocephalus gazella

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Southern Elephant seal
Mirounga leonina



Wandering albatross
Diomedea exulans



Crabeater seal
Lobodon carcinophagus



Snow petrel
Pagodama nivea



Leopard Seal
Hydruga leptonyx



Antarctic skua
Catharacta maccormicki

Other Animals



Krill
Euphausia superba



Blue eyed shag
Phalacrocopax atriceps

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Giant petrel
Macronectes giganteus



Antarctic Land Invertebrates



Cape pigeon
Daption capensis



Snowy Sheathbill
Chionis albus



Arctic tern
Sterna vittata