

## AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS

In Australia live more than 378 species of mammals, 828 species of birds, 4,000 species of fish, 300 species of lizards, 140 species of snakes, two species of crocodiles and 50 varieties of marine mammals.

More than 80 percent of plants, mammals, reptiles and frogs are unique in the world. Among most famous animals are the kangaroo, koala, echidna, dingo, platypus, wallaby and wombat.

It is sometimes difficult to identify the native Australian animals in their natural habitat, but you can always visit a zoo and a natural park in the biggest cities and regional areas.

Among these there are the Taronga Zoo in Sydney, the Rainforest Habitat in Port Douglas, the Healesville Sanctuary in the state of Victoria, the Cleland Wildlife Park in South Australia and the Australia Zoo in Queensland.

In Australia don't live big predatory animals; the dingo, or wild dog, is the biggest carnivorous mammal. Other typical carnivorous animals of Australia are the marmoset, the quoll and Tasmanian devils, but their sizes don't exceed those of a domestic cat.

In Australia there are more than 140 species of marsupials like kangaroos, the wallaby, koalas and wombats. There are 55 different native species of kangaroos and wallaby. They vary for size and weight. There are between 30 and 60 millions of kangaroo. You can see them in the rural areas of Australia. In the outback, you can meet them when they cross the way with a jump. The wallaby live in the remote, rocky areas.

Koalas are people's favorite animals. You can see them in the temperate east coast.

The wombat is a plump and digger animal. It isn't easy to see it in its habitat, but you can see it in the national parks.

The monotremes, mammals that lay the eggs, are another group of animals you can see only in Australia. The most famous is the platypus. It lives in lairs dug along the shore of rivers. It's very shy and difficult to see, but if you want, you can go to the east coast along little torrent.

The echidna has a sticky tongue and many spines. Kangaroo Island is one of the best places where you can see it in liberty.

They are visible about half of 828 species of birds. In Australia live 55 species of coloured parrots. They are in the rural and urban areas.

In Australia there are more species of poisonous snakes than in any other continent. The country is famous also for crocodiles. There are 5 species of endangered turtles.

There are also different species of lizards.

Australia has about 4,000 of the 22,000 types of fish living in the world. Then, the Great Barrier Reef, the largest in the world and heritage, has thousands of species of colorful fish.

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