

Siberian Tiger

DOMAIN
Eukaryota

KINGDOM
Animalia

PHYLUM
Chordata

CLASS
Mammalia

ORDER
Carnivora

FAMILY
Felidae

GENUS
Panthera

SPECIES
P. tigris altaica

WHERE DO THEY HANG OUT?

Siberian tigers rule the boreal forests (taiga) of the Russian Far East (Primorsky/Khabarovsk) and Northeast China. They thrive in snowy landscapes, dense river valleys, and rugged mountains.



CAMOUFLAGED IN THE COLD

Cloaked in a thick, pale-orange coat adorned with sparse black stripes, the Siberian tiger blends seamlessly into snowy landscapes. Males command awe with lengths of 9-11 feet and weights reaching 660 pounds, while females are slightly smaller, yet equally formidable. Unlike tropical tigers, their stripes are fewer and paler, enhancing camouflage in monochrome forests.



WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



As apex predators of the taiga, Siberian tigers primarily stalk large ungulates—elk, deer, and wild boar. Their hunting strategy relies on stealth.

An adult consumes 20 pounds of meat daily but can devour 60 pounds in one meal, often caching leftovers beneath snow. Remarkably, they swim across frozen rivers to pursue prey, showcasing aquatic agility rare among big cats.



Extinct

EX

Threatened

EW

CR

EN

VU

NT

LC

Least Concern

SYMBOLIC & SPIRITUAL

Among the Tungusic peoples, including groups like the Udege and Nanai, the tiger is seen with awe and reverence. They often refer to it as "Grandfather" or "Old Man," a mark of respect for its power and presence in the wild. In the local Udege and Nanai languages, the tiger is known as Amba, a term that conveys both fear and admiration.

SIBERIAN TIGER FAMILIES

Siberian tigers live fiercely solitary lives, except during mating and cub-rearing. After a approx. 103-day gestation, females birth 2-4 blind cubs in hidden dens. The mother raises them alone for 18-24 months, teaching hunting and survival in the harsh taiga. By two years, she aggressively drives off her young to reclaim territory.



THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL



Habitat loss



Prey
Depletion



Poaching



Image by Marcus from Pexel

Listed as Endangered by the IUCN, fewer than 600 Siberian tigers remain.

Poaching for fur and traditional medicine drives 75% of adult deaths, while logging roads fragment habitats and wildfires devastate forests.

Depletion of wild boar and deer by humans forces tigers to attack livestock, provoking lethal retaliation.

Climate change compounds these threats by altering prey migration and intensifying wildfires.



5 FUN FACTS ABOUT SIBERIAN TIGERS



The largest wild cat on Earth, surpassing Bengal tigers in mass and fur density.



They swim between ice floes and hunt fish, a trait unseen in most tigers.



Siberian Indigenous tribes revere them as "Amba" (Great King), embodying wilderness spirits.



Their low-frequency vocalizations travel miles to warn rivals or attract mates.



Populations rebounded from 40 individuals in the 1940s to 600 today through anti-poaching laws.