

Giant River Otter

 **DOMAIN**
Eukarya

 **KINGDOM**
Animalia

 **PHYLUM**
Chordata

 **CLASS**
Mammalia

 **ORDER**
Carnivora

 **FAMILY**
Mustelidae

 **GENUS**
Pteronura

 **SPECIES**
P. brasiliensis

WHERE DO THEY HANG OUT?

Giant River Otters inhabit the freshwater rivers, lakes, and wetlands of South America, particularly in Brazil, Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia, where they use sharp claws and strong tails



A LOOK FOR THE SPOTLIGHT!

Giant River Otters are sleek, powerful swimmers with webbed feet and strong tails. They can grow over 6 feet long and weigh up to 75 pounds. Their thick fur keeps them warm, and their loud calls help them stay in touch with family groups. Each one has a unique white throat patch, it's like a name tag in the wild!



WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



Giant River Otters love fish, especially catfish, perch, and characins but they'll also snack on crabs, small reptiles, and even tiny caimans! They hunt during the day using their sharp eyesight and teamwork, often catching several pounds of food to keep their big bodies fueled.



Photo by vladimirech

Extinct
EX EW

Threatened
CR EN VU

Least Concern
NT LC

MASTER OF STEALTH AND CAMOUFLAGE

Giant River Otters use their sleek, dark fur to blend into river shadows. They hunt quietly with sharp eyesight and teamwork, slipping through the water unseen. Quick and agile, they avoid danger by swimming fast and staying alert.

MUSTELIDAE FAMILIES

Giant River Otters breed mostly during the dry season. After about 65 to 70 days of pregnancy, females give birth to 2-3 pups. The young stay with their family group for months learning to swim and hunt while often riding on their mother's back for safety



THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL



Fishing
Conflict



Illegal
wildlife
trade



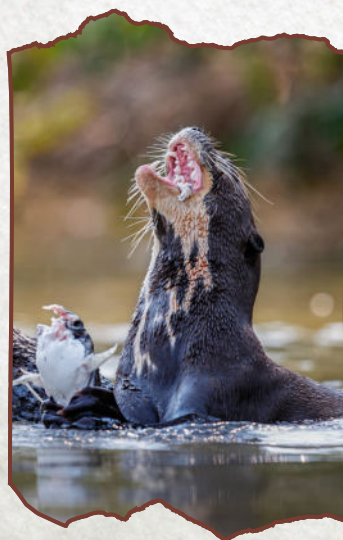
water
pollution



Did you
know?

Giant river otter are critically endangered due to:

- **Habitat Loss:** Forest clearing for agriculture and urbanization.
- **Illegal Hunting :** Poaching for their thick, soft fur
- **Fishing Conflict:** Competing with humans for fish, leading to persecution.
- **Fragmentation :** Roads and dams breakingup their habitat, isolating populations
- **Water Pollution:** Mining and waste harm their food and health.



5 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE GIANT RIVER OTTER



River Giants - They're the biggest otters in the world, growing over 6 feet long!



Talkative Creatures - They make up to 20 different sounds to communicate with their family.



Unique Throat Patches Each otter has a one-of-a-kind white mark on its throat like a fingerprint!



Team Players - They hunt in groups and share food, showing strong family bonds.



They're fast, powerful swimmers!

