

# Penguins

## Basic Facts about Penguins



Penguins are aquatic, flightless birds that are highly adapted to life in the water. Their distinct tuxedo-like appearance is called countershading, a form of camouflage that helps keep them safe in the water. Penguins do have wing-bones, though they are flipper-like and extremely suited to swimming. Penguins are found almost exclusively in the southern hemisphere, where they catch their food underwater and raise their young on land.

## **Diet**

Staples:

- Krill,
- fish
- squid

In general, penguins closer to the equator eat more fish and penguins closer to Antarctica eat more squid and krill.

## **Population**

The penguin species with the highest population is the Macaroni penguin with 11,654,000 pairs. The species with the lowest population is the endangered Galapagos penguin with between 6,000-15,000 individuals.

## **Range**

Penguins can be found on every continent in the Southern Hemisphere from the tropical Galapagos Islands (the Galapagos penguin) located near South America to Antarctica (the emperor penguin).

## **Reproduction**

Mating Season: Varies depending on the species, though most breed during spring and summer.

Incubation: Varies from 1 month-66 days depending on the species.

Number of offspring: King and emperor penguins lay one egg. All other species of penguin lay two eggs.

[Video of Baby Emperor Penguins Emerge from Their Shells | Nature on PBS](#)

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