



# Visit The Wildside!

## The Sumatran Rhinoceros

The Sumatran rhinoceros is the smallest of the rhino family. They weigh about 1,700 pounds and grow to a height of nearly five feet at the shoulders and 8 to 10 feet in length. Unlike most other rhinos, their hide which is dark red-brown in color, is covered with patches of short, dark, stiff hair. The hair helps keep mud caked to the body which cools the hide and protects it from insects.

Sumatran rhinos are generally solitary creatures that feed on fruit, twigs, leaves and shrubs. They have a keen sense of smell and sharp hearing. They leave a network of scented trails throughout the forest in order to find one another. Like other rhinos, the Sumatran has poor eyesight, so they rely heavily on their other senses.

They spend their days in mud wallows to keep cool and are active at dawn and dusk for feeding. The wallows serve to also maintain their skin and their health.

The Sumatran rhino's two horns are smaller than those of their other relatives. The anterior horn can grow on average 10 inches and the posterior horn may grow up to 3 inches but most often is no more than a hump.

Listed as critically endangered, there are thought to be less than 400 Sumatran rhinos in existence today. Even though a number of these are kept in zoos around the world, they rarely reproduce young in captivity. In 2001, a calf was born in the Cincinnati Zoo which was the first born in the United States. The main threats to their survival in the wild include poaching (people illegally hunting them for their horns) and habitat encroachment by humans.



### Interesting Facts About Rhinoceros In General

- A rhinoceros can sleep either standing or laying down.
- The skin of a rhinoceros is quite sensitive particularly to sunburn and insect bites.
- When a calf is threatened by a predator, adult rhinos will form a circle around them to protect the young.
- The average lifespan of a rhinoceros is forty-five to fifty years.
- A rhinoceros can run at thirty to forty miles per hour.
- Rhinos are herbivores.
- There are five species of rhinoceros alive today. These are the white rhinoceros, the black rhinoceros, the Indian rhinoceros, the Sumatran rhinoceros and the Javan rhinoceros.
- A rhinoceros can survive four to five days without water.
- A group of rhinos is referred to as a crash.
- The hump on the back of a white rhinos neck is a ligament that helps support is large head.
- The Indian rhinoceros has a layer of skin with many folds that gives the rhinoceros an armor plated appearance.
- Javan rhinos are the rarest species.

