

THE POLAR BEAR – THE KING OF THE ARCTIC

ONE OF THE LARGEST PREDATOR IN THE WORLD BUT IN DANGER

HABITAT

Svalbard / Arctic coast & ice fields



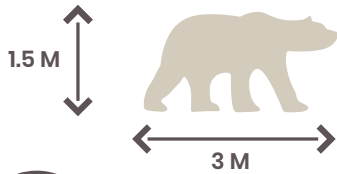
POPULATION

20 – 25 000

2500 – 3000

in Svalbard archipelago

APPEARANCE



200 – 350 KG ♀
400 – 600 KG ♂

5 CM

of fur with extremely dense undercoat

3-4 CM

of subcutaneous fat protects the body from the cold and improves its buoyancy

Polar bears are built for living in the Svalbard, one of the coldest regions on Earth!

- Fat over seven centimeters thick keeps them warm and helps them float when swimming.
- Two layers of fur cover even the bottoms of their feet! This fur is hollow and clear to trap warm air.
- Their ears and tail are small to prevent heat from escaping their bodies.

Scientific Name | *Ursus Maritimus*

Polar bears are classified as marine mammals because they spend most of their lives on the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean and Barents Sea

The word «Arctic» comes from the Greek «ἀρκτος» (árktos), which means «bear» like the constellation. The meaning of “north” derives from ἀρκτος (Árktos, “Ursa Major”), because the constellation is in the northern part of the sky.

LEAST CONCERN
STATUS **VULNERABLE** EXTINCT

NUTRITION BASE



SEAL



REINDEER

New hunting approach



WALRUS

Rare in Svalbard very risky for polar bear

5 – 8 KG

ONE MEAL

SPEED



IN WATER

UP TO 6.5 KM/H



IN LAND

UP TO 30 KM/H

Young polar bears can travel a distance of 15 km without stopping.

WHY THEY MATTER

Polar bears are at the top of the food chain. They have an important role in the overall health of the marine environment.

Polar bears depend on sea ice for their existence and are directly affected by climate change.

Primary food source is seals, but they need the sea ice to be able to hunt. The high calorie meals they consume out on the sea ice get polar bears through the lean summer months where they essentially live off their fat reserve until the sea ice is formed again.

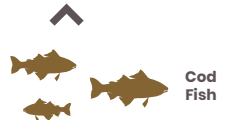
REPRODUCTION



The female gives birth once every 2-3 years



seal



Cod Fish



Krill



Plankton

Polar bear milk is the fattiest of any land mammal's. **31% FAT**

Pregnancy
230 – 250 DAYS

A newborn bear cub is 30 – 35 cm in length and around **750g**

By 2 years old, male cubs can be as big as their moms.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS POLAR BEARS



Temperatures in Svalbard grew four times more than the global average



- Reduced access to food
- Increase in drowning
- Drop in general body condition
- Loss of denning areas
- Lower cub survival rate
- Reduction of its habitat

OTHER FACTORS

INDUSTRIAL IMPACTS

More opportunities for industrial development grow as the temperature climbs. Offshore petroleum installations and deep sea mining projects in the Arctic are expected to increase in number and will have a direct impact on polar bears, their habitat, and the entire food chain.

HUMAN CONFLICT

Increase in encounters between humans and polar bears.

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13%

of the polar bear's sea ice habitat is decreasing every decade.

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