

Sun Bear

Desc:

The Malayan Sun bear, or the Sun bear is the smallest member of the bear family. They are easily distinguishable by their bib-shaped golden or white patch on their chest. These adorable bears are the least studied out of all 8 existing bear species. Maybe this is due to their shy nature and the type of habitat they reside – remote dense lowland forests of South East Asia.

Info:

Sun bears are primarily nocturnal, but daytime activity has been observed in this species. Usually, they scour the forest looking for berries, figs, other varieties of fruits, and insects – especially beetle, termites and ants. Even so, it's high up in the trees is where they excel, using their long, curved claws for climbing with ease and speed, and a long, slender tongue for extracting honey from bee nests. Hence, their nickname is “**honey bear**”. Like many other species, the Sun bear currently faces multiple threats on a regional and national level; habitat loss, population fragmentation, illegal hunting and trading for traditional medicine and delicacies.

Characteristic:

- The Malayan Sun Bear's fur is usually jet-black,
- short and sleek
- crescent-shaped patch found on its breast that ranges between brownish-yellow to dirty white in colour.
- Its muzzle is short and light-coloured, with the white area extending above the eyes in most cases

Fun fact: they have an incredibly long tongue, up to 25 cm (10 inches) long, which they use to extract honey from bee hives and reach deep into crevices for food.