The Giant Panda

The giant panda, which only lives in China outside of captivity, has captured the hearts of people of all ages across the globe. From their furry black and white bodies to their shy and docile nature, they are considered one of the world's most loved animals.

**Quick Fact** The estimated number of giant pandas in the wild varies between 1,500 and 3,000.

# Giant Panda Facts

* Researchers have recently discovered that the gene responsible for tasting savory or umami flavors, such as meat, is inactive in giant pandas.
* For many centuries, giant pandas were thought to be a mythical creature, like a dragon or unicorn.
* Unlike other bears in the region, giant pandas don’t hibernate.
* Giant pandas can stand erect on their hind legs but rarely walk.