# [Crested Penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/crested-penguin/" \o "Crested Penguin):

# The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) (also known as the Fiordland crested penguin) is a medium-sized [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) natively found along the [New Zealand](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/oceania/new-zealand/) coast. Crested [penguins](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) are named after the prominent yellow feathers that are arranged over the eyes and run along on top of these penguin's heads. The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) is found inhabiting dense tropical [rainforest](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/rainforest/) along the Fiordland coast, which is a region of New Zealand's South [Island](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/islands/), found at the south-west tip. The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) is also found on a number of the surrounding [islands](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/islands/) in Stewart [Island](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/islands/) where it shares its [habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat) with other [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) such as the [yellow-eyed penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/yellow-eyed-penguin/) and the little penguin. The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) has a blue/black coloured back and [flippers](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-flipper), with a black head and red beak. The underside of the crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) is completely white as are the patches that are found either side of the crested penguin's beak. The bright yellow eyebrows of the crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/)(from where it gets its name), run from behind its eyes along each side of its head. The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) is a medium-sized [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) that inhabits its native range in a [colony](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colony) with other crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) individuals. Although they spend the majority of their time together on land, crested [penguins](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) usually go out to sea with the rest of the [colony](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colony) but tend to hunt on their own, returning when they are full. The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) is a carnivorous [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal), that like all other [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species), survives on a [diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/diet/) that is only comprised of marine [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal). [Squid](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/squid/) and small crustaceans make up the bulk of the crested penguin's [diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/diet/) along with smaller [organisms](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-organism) including krill and various [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of fish. The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) is usually found nesting in the forests and scrub that line the [New Zealand](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/oceania/new-zealand/)coast and although historically undisturbed, the crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) now has a number of land-dwelling [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) including [cats](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/cat/), [dogs](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/dog/) and foxes along with [rats](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rat/) and [weasels](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/weasel/) that hunt their eggs. Large [seals](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/seal/) including [fur seals](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/fur-seal/) and [leopard seals](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/leopard-seal/) hunt the crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) in the water along with large sharks and killer whales. On average, the crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) breeds once a year, forming pairs that usually remain faithful to one another. The female crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) lays two eggs in her nest in the forest which are incubated by both parents for up to a couple of months, when only one of the eggs will usually hatch. The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) chicks are fed and kept warm by their parents and remain with them until the chicks are more than a few months old and are able to hunt for themselves. Today, the crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) is listed as an [endangered](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/) [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) with an estimated wild population of less than 3,000 breeding pairs. The crested [penguin](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/penguin/) populations have declined rapidly in their native [habitats](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/habitats/) due to deforestation and the introduction of mammalian [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators).

# Crested Penguin Facts:

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| [Kingdom](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-kingdom): | Animalia |
| [Phylum](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-phylum): | Chordata |
| [Class](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-class): | Aves |
| [Order](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order): | Sphenisciformes |
| [Family](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family): | Spheniscidae |
| [Genus](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus): | Eudyptes |
|  | |
| [Scientific Name](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name): | Eudyptes robustus |
| [Type](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type): | Bird |
| [Diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet): | Carnivore |
| [Size (H)](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size): | 60cm - 68cm (24in - 27in) |
| [Weight](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight): | 3kg - 6kg (6.6lbs - 13lbs) |
| [Lifespan](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan): | 15 - 20 years |
| [Lifestyle](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle): | Colony |
| [Conservation Status](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status): | Vulnerable |
|  | |
| [Colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour): | Black, White, Grey, Yellow |
| [Skin Type](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-skin-type): | Feathers |
| [Favourite Food](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-favourite-food): | Krill |
| [Habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat): | Rocky Antarctic Islands |
| [Average Litter Size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-litter-size): | 2 |
| [Main Prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey): | Krill, Fish, Shrimp |
| [Predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators): | Leopard Seal, Killer Whale, Sharks |
| [Distinctive Features](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features): | Red beak and bright yellow eyebrows |