# [Water Buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/water-buffalo/" \o "Water Buffalo):

# The water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) is thought to have originated in [Asia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/asia/) but has since been introduced to [Australia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/oceania/australia/), [Africa](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/), [Europe](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/) and North America. The wild Asian water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) is now considered to be an [endangered](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/) species. The water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) has been [domesticated](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-domesticated) by [humans](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) for thousands of years and is used to pull heavy machinery and to carry heavy loads. [Buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) are farmed in most countries for their meat. The water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) lives in herds with anywhere from a few [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) to bigger herds in [Africa](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/) that commonly have hundreds of [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) per herd. The [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/)is common [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey) for larger [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) such as [tigers](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/tiger/), [crocodiles](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/crocodile/) and lions. The [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) belongs to the same [family](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family) of [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) as wild [cows](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/cow/). This [group](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group) also includes the African [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) and the American [bison](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bison/) along with the [yak](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/yak/) and the [zebu](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/zebu/). Male water buffaloes have very distinctive, large curved [horns](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-horn) on the tops of their heads. The male water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) is also about a third large than the female water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) and the male water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) is therefore more commonly used as an agricultural aid. Water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) spend most of their time submerged in the muddy waters of Asia's tropical forests. By doing this, the water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) is able to keep itself cool in the hot and humid jungle conditions. The hooves on the water buffalo's feet are spread out which allows the water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) to stop itself from sinking into the mud on the river beds and swampland. The water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) is a herbivorous [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) and the water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) therefore has a purely vegetarian [diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/diet/). Water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) munch on aquatic plants when they are in water but water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) seem to prefer to leave the water to find [grassland](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/grassland/) where the water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) can graze on grasses, leaves and herbs. Female water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) produce one water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) calf every couple of years. After a [gestation period](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-gestation-period) of up to 11 months, the female water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) gives birth to her [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) baby. The baby water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) stays with its mother and is dependant on her for its first couple of years. After about three years, male water buffaloes leave the mother water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) to join all male water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) [groups](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group). The female water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) will often remain in the same water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) herd as it's mother. Although the wild Asian water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) is now considered to be an [endangered](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/) [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal), the commercially farmed water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) can be found all around the world. There are thought to be more than 150 million commercially farmed water [buffalo](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/buffalo/) across the globe today which are farmed for their milk, meat and leather.

# Water Buffalo 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): | Mammalia |
| [Order](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order): | Artiodactyla |
| [Family](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family): | Bovidae |
| [Genus](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus): | Bubalus |
|  | |
| [Scientific Name](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name): | Bubalus Bubalis |
| [Type](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type): | Mammal |
| [Diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet): | Herbivore |
| [Size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size): | 2-3m (6.6-9.8ft) |
| [Weight](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight): | 400-900kg (880-2,000lbs) |
| [Top Speed](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-top-speed): | 48km/h (30mph) |
| [Lifespan](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan): | 15-25 years |
| [Lifestyle](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle): | Herd |
| [Conservation Status](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status): | Endangered |
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| [Colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour): | Brown, Tan, Grey |
| [Skin Type](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-skin-type): | Leather |
| [Favourite Food](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-favourite-food): | Grass |
| [Habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat): | Marsh and swampland |
| [Average Litter Size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-litter-size): | 1 |
| [Main Prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey): | Grass, Leaves, Aquatic plants |
| [Predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators): | Human, Wild cats, Crocodile |
| [Special Features](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features): | Large head and body and wallow in water holes |