# [Vulture](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/vulture/):

The vulture is a large, carnivorous [bird](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) that is most well known for its scavenging nature. The vulture is one of the few [types](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-types) of [bird](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) that is found distributed so widely around the world, as vultures are found on every continent excluding the Antarctic and [Australia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/oceania/australia/) and the [islands](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/islands/) that surround it.  
  
 [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of vultures of firstly classified into two [groups](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group), the [old world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-old-world) vultures and the [new world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-new-world) vultures. There are thought to be nearly 30 different [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of vulture that are found worldwide.  
  
The [old world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-old-world) vultures are found in [Asia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/asia/), [Europe](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/) and [Africa](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/) with these [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of vulture thought to be most closely related to [eagles](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/eagle/) and hawks. The [old world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-old-world) vulture is not thought to be closely related to the [new world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-new-world) vulture and the [old world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-old-world) vulture uses its spectacular sight alone in [order](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order) to find food.  
  
The [new world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-new-world) vultures are found in the Americas and although there are definitive similarities between the [old world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-old-world) vulture and the [new world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-new-world) vulture, they are believed to be connected through evolutionary status rather than DNA. The [new world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-new-world) vultures tend to be slightly smaller than the [old world](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-old-world) vultures and use both sight and their excellent sense of smell in [order](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order) to find their food.  
  
All [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of vulture are similar in the sense that they scavenge for their food whenever possible rather than killing it themselves. Vultures feed on the remains of dead [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) and are never too fussy about what is left. Vultures are known to strip meat, skin and even feathers, leaving only the skeleton of the [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) remaining.

# Vulture 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)**:** | Accipitriformes |
| [**Family**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family)**:** | Accipitridae |
| [**Genus**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus)**:** | Aegypiinae |
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| [**Scientific Name**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name)**:** | Aegypius Monachus |
| [**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)**:** | 64cm - 81cm (25in - 32in) |
| [**Wingspan**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-wingspan)**:** | 130cm - 183cm (51in - 72in) |
| [**Weight**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight)**:** | 0.85kg - 2.2kg (1.9lbs - 5lbs) |
| [**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)**:** | 20 - 30 years |
| [**Lifestyle**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle)**:** | Solitary |
| [**Conservation Status**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status)**:** | Endangered |
|  | |
| [**Colour**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour)**:** | Black, White, Grey, Tan, Brown |
| [**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)**:** | Rats |
| [**Habitat**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat)**:** | Deserts, savannah and grassland near water |
| [**Average Clutch Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-clutch-size)**:** | 2 |
| [**Main Prey**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey)**:** | Rats, Small and large animal carcasses |
| [**Predators**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators)**:** | Hawks, Snakes, Wild cats |
| [**Distinctive Features**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features)**:** | Large wings and sharp, curved beak |