# [Wolverine](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/wolverine/" \o "Wolverine):

The wolverine is a medium sized [mammal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-mammal) that despite its bear-like appearance (and its name) is most closely related to the [weasel](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/weasel/). The wolverine is known to be strong and vicious and is said to have immense strength in comparison to its size.  
  
The wolverine is found throughout [Canada](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/north-america/canada/), [Europe](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/), parts of North America and the Arctic Circle where the wolverines inhabit mountainous regions and dense forests. Wolverines are also known to venture into more open areas such as plains and farmland when they are in search of food.  
  
The wolverine generally eats mice, [rats](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rat/) and other small [mammals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-mammal), [birds](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bird/) and eggs during the summer months when these small [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) are in abundance. During the bitter winter however, when snow covers the ground, the wolverine tends to hunt larger [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) such as [reindeer](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/reindeer/)(caribou), [sheep](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/sheep/) and [moose](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/moose/). Despite the fact that the wolverine is known to be capable of hunting down and killing [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) that are so much bigger than itself, the wolverine tends to prefer to scavenge the kills of other [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) such as wolves and [bears](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bear/). The wolverine will let the larger [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) hunt the [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey) down and the wolverine then chases the hunter away by showing its teeth and growling fiercely. Then the wolverine is left to eat the kill.

# Wolverine 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)**:** | Carnivora |
| [**Family**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family)**:** | Mustelidae |
| [**Genus**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus)**:** | Gulo |
|  | |
| [**Scientific Name**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name)**:** | Gulo Gulo |
| [**Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type)**:** | Mammal |
| [**Diet**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet)**:** | Carnivore |
| [**Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size)**:** | 65-87cm (25-34in) |
| [**Weight**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight)**:** | 10-31kg (22-70lbs) |
| [**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)**:** | 10-15 years |
| [**Lifestyle**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle)**:** | Solitary |
| [**Conservation Status**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status)**:** | Threatened |
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| [**Colour**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour)**:** | Sandy, White, Black, Brown |
| [**Skin Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-skin-type)**:** | Fur |
| [**Favourite Food**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-favourite-food)**:** | Caribou |
| [**Habitat**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat)**:** | Mountainous regions and dense forest |
| [**Average Litter Size**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-average-litter-size)**:** | 3 |
| [**Main Prey**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey)**:** | Caribou, Moose, Sheep, Eggs |
| [**Predators**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators)**:** | Human, Wolves, Bears |
| [**Special Features**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features)**:** | Long, sharp claws and bear-like appearance |