# [Black Rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/black-rhinoceros/" \o "Black Rhinoceros):

The black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) (also known as the hook-lipped rhinoceros) is a large [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) of [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) native to [Africa](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/). Despite its name, the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) is actually fairly light in [colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/" \l "jump-colour) with most black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) individuals having either white or grey skin.  
  
Historically, the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) had a vast range across central and eastern [Africa](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/) in countries including [Kenya](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/kenya/), [Tanzania](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/tanzania/), [Cameroon](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/cameroon/), [South Africa](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/south-africa/), [Namibia](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/namibia/), [Zimbabwe](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/zimbabwe/), and [Angola](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/africa/angola/). Although the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) is still found in these countries today, their numbers are very few and far between.  
  
The black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) is one of the larger [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species) with the [horns](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-horn) of the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) known to reach 1.5 meters in length. The black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) uses its [horns](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-horn) are used for defence, intimidation, digging up roots and breaking branches during feeding. The [horns](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-horn) of the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) are made from a substance called [keratin](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-keratin) and are therefore very strong. The [horns](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-horn) of the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) are used in ancient medicine and many black rhinos have been illegally poached for them.  
  
The black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) has relatively poor eyesight, relying more on hearing and smell to detect what is going on around them. The ears of the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) possess a relatively wide rotational range to detect sounds and an excellent sense of smell to readily alert them to the presence of predators.  
  
The black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) is a herbivorous [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) meaning that it sustains itself on a purely plant based [diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/diet/). Black rhinos browse the densely vegetated savanna for leaves, flowers, buds, fruits, berries and roots which they dig up from the ground using their horns.  
  
Due to its large [size](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size), the black rhino's only real [predator](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predator) in the wild are large wild [cats](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/cat/) such as [lions](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/lion/) that will [prey](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-prey) on the black rhino calves and weak individuals. [Humans](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) are the [biggest threat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-biggest-threat)to the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) as they have been hunted to the brink of extinction for their horns.  
  
The black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) is a solitary [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) and only comes together with other black rhinos to mate. The female black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) gives birth to a single calf after a [gestation period](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-gestation-period) that is over a year long. The black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) calf remains with its mother until it is at least 2 years old and big enough to become independent.  
  
Today, the black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) is a [critically endangered](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/critically-endangered/) [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) said to be on the brink of extinction in the wild. There are only a handful of black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) individuals left in the wild, but reports suggest that black [rhinoceros](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/rhino/) population numbers are now beginning to increase due to continued [conservation](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/conservation/) efforts.

# Black Rhinoceros 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)**:** | Perissodactyla |
| [**Family**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family)**:** | Rhinocerotidae |
| [**Genus**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-genus)**:** | Diceros |
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| [**Scientific Name**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name)**:** | Diceros Bicornis |
| [**Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type)**:** | Mammal |
| [**Diet**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet)**:** | Herbivore |
| [**Size (L)**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size)**:** | 3.3m - 3.6m (11ft - 12ft) |
| [**Weight**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight)**:** | 800kg - 1,400kg (1,800lbs - 3,100lbs) |
| [**Top Speed**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-top-speed)**:** | 42km/h (30mph) |
| [**Lifespan**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan)**:** | 45-50 years |
| [**Lifestyle**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle)**:** | Solitary |
| [**Conservation Status**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status)**:** | Critically Endangered |
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| [**Colour**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour)**:** | Brown, Grey, White |
| [**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)**:** | Tropical bushland, grassland and savannas |
| [**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, Fruit, Berries, Leaves |
| [**Predators**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators)**:** | Human, Wild cats |
| [**Special Features**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features)**:** | Hard, thick skin and two large horns |