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

The chamois is a large sized [mountain](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/mountains/) [goat](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/goat/), native to the European [mountains](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/mountains/). Today, the range of the chamois includes [Romania](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/romania/), [Italy](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/italy/), [Switzerland](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/switzerland/), [Austria](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/austria/) and parts of [Turkey](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/turkey/). The chamois has also been introduced to the mountainous regions of New Zealand's South Island.  
The chamois is a member of the Bovidae [family](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-family) of [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/" \l "jump-animal)which includes [sheep](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/sheep/) [goats](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/goat/) and even [antelope](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/antelope/). The average sized adult chamois stands at around 75cm high and weighs roughly 50 kg. The chamois is a relatively stocky looking [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal), especially when compared to the average farmyard goat.  
  
The chamois has short [horns](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-horn), that curve backwards on both the male chamois and the female chamois. The fur of the chamois is thick to keep it warm in the alpine winters, and turns from a deep brown [colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/" \l "jump-colour) in the summer to a grey [colour](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/" \l "jump-colour) in the winter. The chamois also has a white coloured face with black markings below the eyes. The chamois has a black stripe that runs along it's back from neck to rump.  
  
The male chamois is generally a very solitary [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal), as the male chamois spends most of the year [grazing](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-grazing) alone and meets with female chamois during the mating season. The female chamois however, live in herds with other females and their young. This safety in numbers approach helps the female chamois and the [offspring](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-offspring) to protect one another.  
  
As with other [animals](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) of the same [group](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-group), such as [sheep](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/sheep/) and [goats](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/goat/), the chamois is a herbivorous [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) feeding on a purely plant based [diet](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/diet/). The chamois spends its time [grazing](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-grazing) on the alpine meadows and munching leaves from the shrubs and bushes.  
  
In its natural European [habitat](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat), the chamois has a number of [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) including wolves, foxes and wildcats. Over the years, the [human](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) has been one of the biggest [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) of the chamois as they are hunted for their meat. Before [human](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/human/) settlers moved into the European [mountains](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/mountains/), the chamois would have also had much larger [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) such as [bears](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/bear/) and [leopards](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/leopard/) but both are nearly (if not) [extinct](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/extinct/) in [Europe](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/europe/) today. There are no natural [predators](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators) of the chamois in it's introduced [environment](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-environment) in New Zealand.  
  
The mating season of the chamois occurs in the late winter to early spring. After a [gestation period](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-gestation-period) of between 5 and 6 months, the female chamois will give birth to a single chamois baby known as a chamois calf. Although the chamois has been known to give birth to twins, it is very rare. The mother chamois nurses her calf, feeding it milk until it is able to graze. The chamois calf is more independent at 6 months of age but the chamois calf tends to stay with its mother until it is at least a year old. Generally, the chamois lives to between 18 and 22 years.  
  
Despite the fact that the chamois is not considered to be an [endangered](https://a-z-animals.com/animals/endangered/) [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal), or even an [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) that is under threat from extinction.  European laws prohibit the hunting of the chamois in [order](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-order) to try and conserve native mountainous [animal](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-animal) [species](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-species).

# Chamois 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)**:** | Rupicapra |
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| [**Scientific Name**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-scientific-name)**:** | Rupicapra Rupicapra |
| [**Type**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-type)**:** | Mammal |
| [**Diet**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-diet)**:** | Herbivore |
| [**Size (H)**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-size)**:** | 75cm - 80cm (30in - 31in) |
| [**Weight**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-weight)**:** | 50kg - 55kg (110lbs - 121lbs) |
| [**Top Speed**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-top-speed)**:** | 17km/h (10mph) |
| [**Lifespan**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifespan)**:** | 18 - 22 years |
| [**Lifestyle**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-lifestyle)**:** | Herd |
| [**Conservation Status**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-conservation-status)**:** | Least Concern |
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| [**Colour**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-colour)**:** | Brown, Grey, Black, Tan, White |
| [**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)**:** | Grass |
| [**Habitat**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-habitat)**:** | Mountainous and rocky terrain |
| [**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, Shrubs |
| [**Predators**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-predators)**:** | Human, Wolf, Wildcats |
| [**Distinctive Features**](https://a-z-animals.com/reference/glossary/#jump-distinctive-features)**:** | Black and white face markings and backward curving horns |

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