

The **tiger** (***Panthera tigris***) is a large [cat](#) and a member of the genus *[Panthera](#)* native to [Asia](#). It has a powerful, muscular body with a large head and paws, a long tail and orange fur with black, mostly vertical stripes. It is traditionally classified into nine [recent subspecies](#), though some recognise only two subspecies, mainland Asian tigers and the island tigers of the [Sunda Islands](#).

Throughout the tiger's range, it inhabits mainly forests, from [coniferous](#) and [temperate broadleaf and mixed forests](#) in the [Russian Far East](#) and [Northeast China](#) to [tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests](#) on the [Indian subcontinent](#) and [Southeast Asia](#). The tiger is an [apex predator](#) and preys mainly on [ungulates](#), which it takes by ambush. It lives a mostly solitary life and occupies [home ranges](#), defending these from individuals of the same sex. The range of a male tiger overlaps with that of multiple females with whom he mates. Females give birth to usually two or three cubs that stay with their mother for about two years. When becoming independent, they leave their mother's home range and establish their own.