

## **Beira Antelope Facts You Would Not Believe**

Antelopes are a vast family of hoofed mammals native to Africa, with a few exceptions in Asia. Antelopes are mammals that are related to cattle, bison, sheep, and goats. Instead of antlers, antelopes and their relatives have horns. These are permanent characteristics on the skulls and are composed of bone. They are most active early in the morning and late in the afternoon, and they sleep in the middle of the day. They are very cautious, and their acute hearing alerts them to even the tiniest noise, causing them to bolt over the scree on rocky slopes, leaping with agility from rock to rock on steeper, less broken ground.

The Beira is a rare antelope endemic to the Horn of Africa. It is frequently confused with the Klipspringer, despite having a somewhat longer head, considerably larger ears, and longer, thinner legs. The hind legs, in particular, are lengthy, resulting in a rump that is higher than the shoulders. The female is bigger than the male and has no crest. Only the male has horns. Beira is suited to dry & arid climates and doesn't need water since they get all they need from the plants they eat. The Beira antelope, *Dorcatragus megalotis*, is listed Vulnerable by the IUCN. It is native to the Horn of Africa. Beiras live in groups of two or in tiny family groups on rocky slopes near a grassy plain. Their extremely developed hoofs feature elastic pads beneath that provide excellent stone traction. Antelope Beira, do not need to drink much water as they feast mainly on the leaves of bushes, especially mimosa, grass, and herbage in the early morning and late afternoon.

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### **What type of animal is a Beira Antelope?**

Beira antelope, *dorcatragus megalotis*, is a small Mammal that occurs in the Horn of Africa region.

### **What class of animal does a Beira Antelope belong to?**

Beira Antelopes belong to the Mammalia class, Bovidae family, and *Dorcatragus* Genus.

### **How many Beira Antelopes are there in the world?**

Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation is home to the sole captive breeding group. This species' effective breeding began in 2000, with eight founder animals. In 2005, the number of Beira Antelopes at the Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation reached a high of 58.

### **Where does a Beira Antelope live?**

The Beira is endemic to northeast Europe, with populations ranging from Djibouti's far south through Somaliland and northern Somalia, as well as extreme north-eastern Ethiopia. The majority of its range occurs in the Somaliland region, stretching from the Djibouti border east

into northern Somalia's Puntland and the Nogaal Valley. It was only in 1991 that its presence in Djibouti was verified.

### **What is a Beira Antelope's habitat?**

Beira may be found on rocky or stony hillsides and slopes, interspersed with dry grassland and acacia scrub, and many locations are on hills with flat tops and steep stone sides.

Who do Beira Antelopes live with?

Beira lives in tiny family groups and pairs, usually with a single male, although bigger groupings have been seen, which are most likely formed when family groups get together. Beira are preyed upon by hyenas, caracals, and jackals, as well as other big cat families like lions and leopards.

### **How long does a Beira Antelope live?**

They have been recorded to live up to 14 years in the wild.

### **How do they reproduce?**

Reproduction in the Beira is dioecious. A seasonal or bi-seasonal pattern of birthing has been seen in the wild. Beiras, tend to lose their normal seasonal breeding pattern when maintained in captivity. Most of them mate soon after birth. Mating is short but occurs often throughout the day. Beira antelope has only been seen giving birth in April when the rainy season is at its peak. One calf is born after a six-month gestation period. The calf is often presented anteriorly, with the forelegs and head emerging first, as in other ruminants. While the calf is still in the delivery canal, mothers often make physical contact with it. Typically, female Beiras, begin washing their newborns as soon as they are born. The calves of the Beira antelope are fully grown and precocious. They attempt to stand as soon as possible after birth. After 80 minutes, calves typically achieve a standing posture and begin looking for their mother's udder, which usually takes no more than another 10 minutes. Beira antelope calves are hidlers (they stay hidden and apart from their mothers except during nursing times), and their mothers only come to nurse them. During the day, Beira antelope newborns are fed between two and nine times. Nursing frequency begins to decline 12 days after delivery. Beira antelope calves, like other dwarf antelopes, have a large body mass relative to their mothers. Calves, which weigh 1500–1700 g at birth, account for 13% of adult body mass. A calf has typically reached the average adult body mass of 11 kg by the end of its 12th month. The iris of baby Beira antelopes is yellow, in contrast to the brown eyes of mature animals. After 9 months, the colour fades to brown. Calves of the Beira antelope begin nibbling solid food as early as two days after birth. They start eating solid food on average 3 days after birth, and rumination begins at 3 weeks. From the age of three weeks onwards, typical pawing may be seen in young animals. At the age of two, female Beira antelopes reach sexual maturity. Males begin to become sexually active at the age of eight months and, on average, execute their first successful mating at the age of eleven months.

**What is their conservation status?**

The IUCN has classified it as Vulnerable. It is considered to be uncommon but not endangered in Djibouti.

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