

ALTINA WILDLIFE PARK

a **unique** wildlife adventure

ALTINA WILDLIFE



FACTSHEET



American Bison

Scientific Name:

Bison bison

Habitat: Great herds of bison numbering in the millions were found throughout North America, North Canada and up to and as far as the border of Mexico in the wide expanse of the open plains.

Description: Brownish-black except on the hind part of the body which is brown. Long, coarse hair covers the head, neck and hump, the hair forming a beard on the throat and chin. The horns spread about 90cm apart at their widest point. A fully grown bull (male) measures from 3 – 3.8m long from the tip of its nose to the end of its short, tufted tail. Its height at the shoulders measure about 1.8m and a fully matured bull can weigh up to 1.400kgs. Cows are much smaller and rarely weigh more than 500kgs.

Status: Endangered.

Interesting Facts:

- In 1889, only 551 Bison could be found alive in the United States.
- Group Structure: Large herds comprising of a dominant bull (also known as the “harem-master” who monopolises sexual activity), females, calves and younger males.
- Diet: Feed mainly on grasses.
- Gestation: 9 months.
- Maturity: Calves are sexually mature at 3 years.
- Bison are mostly active during morning and evenings. They are fond of wallowing in mud and rubbing themselves against trees and boulders.
- Lifespan: Up to 30 years.