

ALTINA WILDLIFE PARK

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ALTINA WILDLIFE



FACTSHEET



Himalayan Tahr

Scientific Name:

Hemitragus jemlahicus

Habitat: Its native habitat is in the rugged wooded hills and mountain slopes of the Himalaya from northern India to Tibet.

Description: The dense, woolly winter coat is reddish to dark brown with a thick undercoat. With their winter coat, males grow a long, shaggy mane around the neck and shoulders which extends down the front legs. After the spring molt, the coat is much shorter and lighter in colour. The legs are relatively short, and the head is proportionally small. The eyes are large and the ears are small and pointed. The horns are triangular in cross-section and are found in both sexes. They curve upward, backwards, and then inwards, to a maximum length of 45cm, and are usually larger in males. Males can reach a height of 140cm and a weight of 90kgs with females being slightly smaller.

Conservation Status: Considered vulnerable.

Interesting Facts:

- **Group Structure:** In winter they form mixed herds of 15 to 80 individuals. In spring males form all male groups before joining the females again in the autumn.
- **Diet:** The tahr will eat almost any vegetation, from grass and herbs to the leaves of shrubs and trees. They will rear up on their hind legs to reach for branches which they then hold down with their front legs as they eat.
- **Young per Birth:** 1, rarely 2.
- **Life Span:** Usually 10 years, up to 21 in captivity.
- Their hooves have a flexible, rubbery core that allows it to grip smooth rocks, while a hard, sharp rim can lodge into small footholds.
- They are the closest relative to the wild goat.
- The tahr is a ruminant and has a multi-chambered stomach. After feeding it needs to regurgitate the pulp and chew it over again. This allows it to get the maximum nutrition out of the tough vegetation it eats.

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