

ALTINA WILDLIFE PARK

a **unique** wildlife adventure

ALTINA WILDLIFE



FACTSHEET



Red Deer

Scientific Name: *Cervus elaphus*

Habitat: Native to Europe and has been successfully introduced to parts of South America, Australia and New Zealand. Red deer live in areas ranging from dense forests to moors, from flood plains and lowlands to plateaus and the Alps.

Description: They have a reddish brown coat with the upper parts being lighter and they have a white patch under their tails. A Stag (male) can grow to a height of 1.3m at the shoulder and can weigh up to 130kgs. The hind (female) is slightly smaller than the stag.

Status: Common.

Interesting facts:

- Group structure: The stag herds the hinds together into harems ranging in numbers from 1 to 12.
- Diet: Red deer feed primarily on herbs, grasses and small plants. In winter the deer will eat conifer needles, lichens, softwood bark and grasses.
- Gestation: 7 – 9 months.
- Calves are born with a spotted white coat (which acts as camouflage from predators), with the spots fading by the time the calf is 2 months old.
- The stag with a full set of antlers is a most impressive sight. The antlers are usually branched in a complex manner with 6 - 10 points (tines) on each branch. The antlers can weigh up to 9kgs and measure a metre or more in length.
- Lifespan: 12 – 18 years.