

ALTINA WILDLIFE PARK

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FACTSHEET



Ostrich

Scientific Name: *Struthio camelus*

Habitat: Ostriches inhabit the Sahara, Somalia, Ethiopia and parts of East and Southern Africa. They are found in sparsely wooded areas, savannah grassland or areas of semi-desert where there is sufficient grass or vegetation.

Description: The male is predominately black with white wing tips, whilst the female is tawny in colour. They have two toes; one is long with a short nail whilst the other is short with no nail. They can grow up to 2.5m tall and weigh up to 155kgs.

Status: Common.

Interesting facts:

- The ostrich is the world's largest bird.
- Group structure: A breeding male will have a primary female partner but will allow up to 5 females to lay eggs in the nest. Each female can lay up to 14 eggs.
- The female's egg is the largest of any living species with an incubation period of 42 days.
- Commonly the male takes the night watch on the eggs as he is better camouflaged whilst the female resembling the natural daylight terrain takes her turn during the day.
- Diet: Grasses, seeds and insects.
- When alarmed the ostrich can sprint up to 60kms per hour.
- Lifespan: 50 – 70 years.

www.altinawildlife.com Phone: 0412 060 342 email: info@altinawildlife.com