

**Wild Wonders:**

# Giraffe

Tall, graceful, gentle giants, giraffe are the elegant wonders of the African bush!



# Safety in Numbers

Giraffe will often form mixed herds with other herbivores. This allows each animal to scan for potential predators; antelope and zebra using their acute sense of smell and hearing, and giraffe their sharp vision!





**Giraffe have the same number of neck vertebrae as a mouse! In fact the same number as almost all mammals worldwide - seven!**



## A Long Way Up & Down!

Giraffe calves are born with mom standing up, and therefore fall six feet to the ground at birth! When they eventually get their footing (within 15 minutes of birth) they stand at six feet tall as newborns. As they grow, giraffe will become the tallest animal on Earth reaching towering heights of 18 feet!

## **HUGE HEARTS!**

**In order to pump oxygen rich blood efficiently all the way up the long neck and to the brain, giraffe require a massive and heavy heart! In fact their heart is among the largest of any land animal, weighing 25 pounds!**



# Sky High Dining



**Giraffe are herbivores that browse vegetation for their food. They use their long 18 inch tongues to procure leaves & twigs of acacia and other favoured browse. As ruminants, giraffe chew and swallow their food several times prior to full digestion!**



# Giraffe Conservation

Giraffe have been undergoing a 'silent extinction' as their numbers have dropped extensively over the last two decades, almost going unnoticed. Habitat destruction, poaching and snares are constant threats through their range. Groups like the Giraffe Conservation Foundation are doing their part to help safeguard this gentle giant.



WILD EXPOSURES