

The Greater one-horned rhino

The common name, the Greater one-horned rhino as well as scientific name *Rhinoceros unicornis*, support the animal's single horn characteristic feature.

The Greater one-horned rhino is grayish brown with pink shade at the skin folds. The skin folds give an armor-plated appearance. The animal is hairless except for eyelashes, ear tufts and the tail. It has three toes on each foot.

The horns of rhinoceros, unlike other mammals, lack a bony core and contain only tiny keratin tubes dispersed in a keratinous matrix.

The mouth of Greater one-horned rhino is broad and has a prehensile lip that gives it a hooked appearance. The lips are capable of grasping objects that help the animal to feed a variety of grasses, leaves, shrubs, fruits, tree branches and water plants.

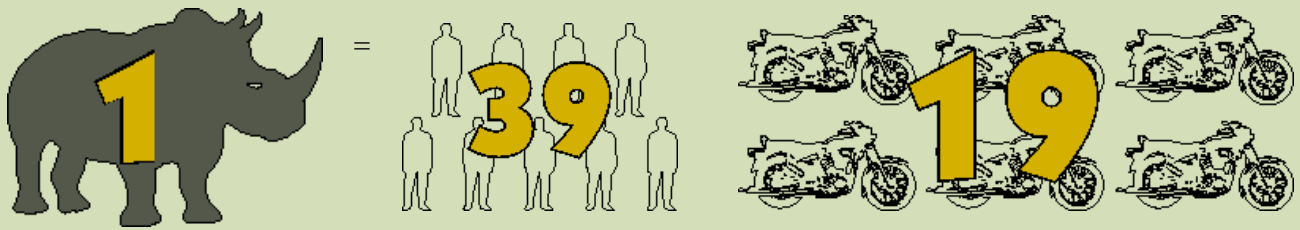
The rhino has good sense of hearing and smell but relatively poor eyesight.

Male rhinos are usually larger than females in the wild. The

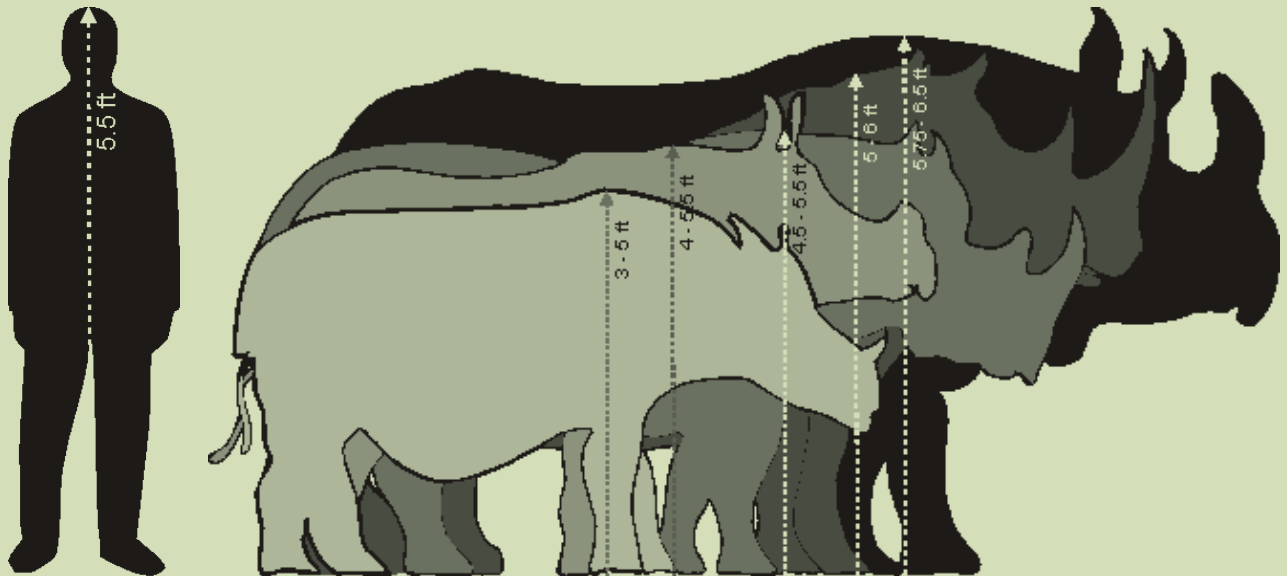
Greater one-horned rhino is similar in size to the White rhino and larger than all other rhino species.

The closest relative to the rhinoceros is the horse, ass and tapir.





1 Greater one-horned rhino equals 39 men equals 19 Royal Enfield



The rhinoceros family has five species; three in Asia and two in Africa

Conservation Status

Asian rhino

Greater one-horned rhino:
Vulnerable

CITES: Appendix I
Wildlife (Protection) Act,
1972: Schedule I

Greater one-horned rhino
3,339

White rhino 20,000

Black rhini 4,880

Javan rhino 50

Sumatran rhino 270



Rhino History

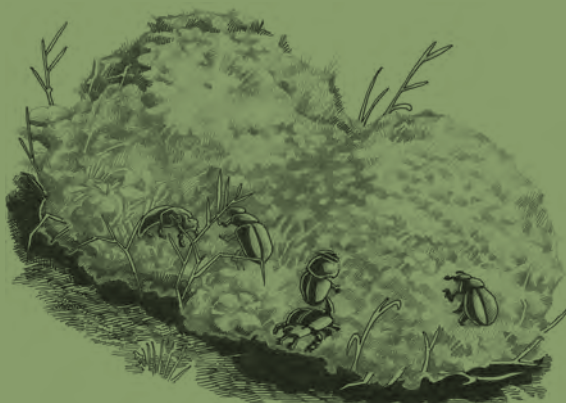
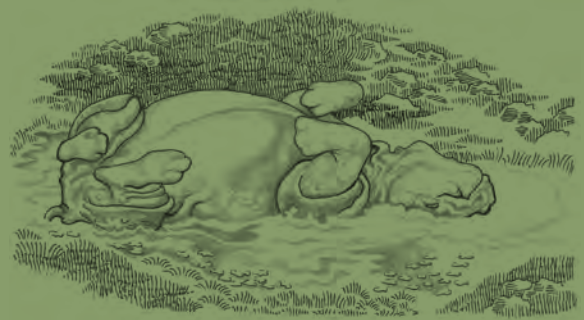
In 1400 AD the Greater one-horned rhino population was about 4,75,000 or even more. It occurred from Pakistan on the west and up to Myanmar in the east of Asia. After the introduction of agriculture practices in Gangetic and Brahmaputra River flood plains, the population of Asian rhino started declining. In addition poaching and further habitat loss resulted in rapid decline of the species.

In 1900 the population in Kaziranga, Assam dropped to less than 100. In 1960s only two core population remained in Nepal and India. Nepal had as low as 60-80 by early 1960. Other smaller reserves in India (Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh) had numbers in single digits or under 20 individuals in the 1970s. Timely conservation efforts like declaration of Protected Areas, introduction of wildlife laws (penalties like imprisonment and fines for convictions in poaching "Schedule I" animals), translocation efforts helped the animal to regain its population.

Rhino Behaviour:












Wallowing

Roll about or lie relaxed in mud or water to keep the body cool or to avoid biting insects or spread scent is known as wallowing. This is a behaviour in bigger mammals and a typical behaviour in rhinos. We human wallow (relax) in the luxury of a hotel.



Rhino Poo

Rhinos have poor eyesight but they have good sense of smell. They use piles of dung to leave "messages" for other rhinos. Each rhino's smell is unique. It can also tell a rhino if the other rhino is young/old/male or female. They also tell other rhinos that this is their territory.

-  There are five different species of rhinoceros, three native to southern Asia and two native to Africa. They are the Black Rhinoceros, White Rhinoceros, Indian Rhinoceros, Javan Rhinoceros and Sumatran Rhinoceros.
-  Three of the five rhinoceros species are listed as being critically endangered.
-  Rhinoceros are herbivores (plant eaters).
-  All five species of rhinoceros can grow to weigh over 1000 kg (2200 lb).
-  White rhino can weigh over 3500 kg (7700 lb).
-  White rhinoceros are generally considered the second largest land mammal (after the elephant).
-  Rhinoceros have thick, protective skin.
-  Relative to their large body size, rhinoceros have small brains.
-  Rhinoceros horns are made from a protein called keratin, the same substance that fingernails and hair are made of.
-  Rhinoceros are often hunted by humans for their horns.
-  A group of rhinoceros is called a 'herd' or a 'crash'.

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