

# Birds of the Antarctic

Many species of birds live in the Antarctic, making the black-and-white landscape come alive with specks of color. What color will your birds be?

## **Wandering Albatross:**

The wandering albatross lives up to its name: These seabirds are able to circumnavigate the Southern Ocean multiple times in a single year! It also has the largest wingspan of any bird, measuring up to 11.5 ft (3.5m) in length from wingtip to wingtip. With such huge wings, these birds can stay airborne for an extended period of time without flapping their wings, gliding through the air like a plane.

## **Antarctic Tern:**

This small bird can be found in large flocks of up to 100 birds that settle on the islands and shores of Antarctica. They nest on rocky beaches to lay their eggs and make periodic trips to the ocean to find food. The terns dive down into the sea to find small fish and crustaceans like Antarctic krill.

## **Brown Skua:**

Skuas are medium-sized predatory seabirds that live on the shores of the Southern Ocean and Antarctic regions. Brown skuas will steal food from penguins and other seabirds by harassing them until they vomit the food out.

## **Emperor Penguin:**

The largest—and arguably the most famous—penguin in the world, the emperor penguin lives its entire life in Antarctica and is the only penguin that breeds during the harsh Antarctic winter. To avoid predators, the penguins move over 31 miles (50 km) inland to breed, lay eggs, and care for their chicks. In order to feed the chick and themselves, the parents make monthly trips back to the ocean to stock up on fish, squid, and krill.

## **Adélie Penguin:**

Adélie penguins can be found along the entire coast of Antarctica, making them the only other penguin besides the emperor penguin that lives exclusively in Antarctica. These penguins typically live on sea ice in the Southern Ocean where they can rest between feeding. The only time Adélie penguins return to the shores of the Antarctic continent is to breed and care for their young.



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