



# MOUNTAIN GORILLA

The mountain gorilla is a subspecies of the eastern gorilla. The other subspecies, the eastern lowland gorilla, is on average bigger, but mountain gorillas are still powerful and strong.

Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

## WHERE THEY LIVE

Mountain gorillas live in tropical forests, in high altitudes between 2,500 metres and 4,000 metres in central Africa. Here there are just two isolated populations: one in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park

in Uganda, and one in the Virunga volcanoes – which span the borders of Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/where-we-work/places/virunga-bwindi>



## CHARACTERISTICS

- They have a heavy body shape and dark coat.
- Male mountain gorillas can weigh up to 180kg and females up to 90kg.
- They have a broad chest and long arms.
- They mainly move around on the ground. They walk on all fours using clenched fists and flat feet. They can climb trees if they need to.



## FAMILY

Mountain gorillas generally live in groups with several females and their young, and one dominant male. They usually live in a group of about 10 gorillas – but groups of 65 have been seen.

Dominant males are known as ‘silverbacks’ because they have a patch of silver hair on their back and hips.

## DID YOU KNOW

Males defend their females and offspring using their large size in intimidating displays involving charging and chest-beating.