

A scenic mountain landscape featuring a river in the foreground, lush green hillsides, and snow-capped mountain peaks under a blue sky with white clouds. Several horses are grazing in a grassy field near the river.

Italian fauna

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Fauna in Italy is poor in number. Large mammals such as wolves, bears and wild boars living in the Alps in northern Italy are found in very small numbers. Ibexes and chamois live in the Alps in northern Italy. In the Alps in northern Italy you can see the rare fallow deer and mouflon. Only the world of birds and mammals is rich in species and number. The birds typical of Italy are ravens and swallows.



Gray Wolf



It is a species of predatory mammal from the dog family, inhabiting forests, plains and swampy areas. A species with territorial tendencies. There may be sharing of part of the area by two competing packs. A wolf can cover a distance of several dozen kilometers in a day. In search of a mate, a male can travel over 600 km in 2 weeks. Wolf packs number up to 20 individuals, but are usually much smaller, being a family group consisting of a parental pair, young and possibly some wolves from the previous litter. Wolves have a developed system of communicating using body language, vocalizations and chemicals – pheromones and their own excrements (marking). They feed mainly on medium- and large-sized ungulates (deer, wild boars, roe deer), not to mention smaller animals or carrion, and if the herd is large, they also hunt larger mammals or their herds together. In favorable conditions, they willingly eat fish. In the absence of food, or during the period of raising young, they sometimes attack farm animals.

Northern chamois

The Northern chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), also known as the Alpine chamois, is found in the Alps, Carpathians, Apennines and other mountainous regions of Europe. Its range covers several European countries, including France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia and others. It is a species of mountain animal that has adapted to life in harsh high mountain conditions.

Body length 120–135 cm

Height at withers up to 90 cm

Body weight 34–62 kg

Brown coloration, with a darker streak along the back

One of the fascinating aspects of the northern chamois is its ability to survive in harsh mountain conditions. This animal is an expert at scrambling up rocky slopes and moving through hard-to-reach areas. It is a herbivore, feeding on grasses, mosses, leaves and other mountain plants. Northern chamois live in small family groups, which increases their chances of survival in the harsh climate of the mountains. However, their population is under threat due to loss of natural habitat and pressure from hunters.



Alpine marmot

The alpine marmot is a medium-sized rodent with a stocky body, reaching a length of 42 to 54 centimeters. It is characterized by fur in shades of brown and gray, with a light-colored belly. Its tail is relatively short. It is also distinguished by its short ears and characteristic strong teeth, which it uses to bite

The alpine marmot is known for its distinctive whistle, with which it warns other individuals of danger. This is why it carries the name "marmot."

These animals are excellent diggers and build underground burrows where they live and store supplies for the winter.

Alpine marmots are herbivorous and feed mainly on grasses, herbs, roots and flowers.

Alpine marmots primarily inhabit the mountainous areas of Europe, mainly the Alps and the Carpathians



Stoat

The stoat has fur that changes color depending on the season. In winter it is white, and in summer it is red-brown on the back and yellow-white on the belly. The tip of the tail is black. The ermine has very sharp claws and fangs that are used to defend itself against an aggressor.

Its main habitat is deciduous forests, mixed forests and coastal thickets, field woodlots, and farm buildings. It leads a nocturnal, terrestrial lifestyle.

It hunts mainly at night for lemmings, field rodents, less often for amphibians and reptiles, insects and molluscs, and sometimes for birds. In winter it sometimes attacks hares.

The estrus period takes place in March and April. The female gives birth to 3 to 18 young (usually 4–9) at the turn of May and June. The young reach sexual maturity at the end of their first year of life. Ermine lives up to 6 years.

This species is under strict protection.



Daniel ordinary



Its natural habitat is the Mediterranean area of southern Europe, Asia Minor and northern Africa. It occupies a variety of habitats from dry and hot to cold and humid. It shows great adaptability. It prefers sparse forests and their edges, and sometimes goes out to forage in sub-forest agricultural fields and meadows. It feeds on herbaceous plants, young twigs of trees and shrubs, as well as mosses and lichens. In doing so, it is less picky than deer. In the mountains it can be found at altitudes up to about 1,000 meters above sea level. It lives mainly in herds, but older males live alone or in small groups. In late summer they mate with groups of females. They communicate with body language, sounds and scents. Fallow deer are food for larger predators. By humans they are killed for meat, pelts and antlers.

The mountain Wagtail

The mountain wagtail is a small bird that inhabits the mountainous areas of Europe.

The mountain wagtail is a bird with a length of about 18–19 cm and a wingspan of about 25–27 cm. Males and females look similar, with the top colored in shades of brown, while the underside has a white breast and belly. A distinctive feature of the mountain wagtail is its white forehead and eyebrows. The mountain wagtail is a high-altitude species, found primarily in the Alps, Pyrenees, Apennines and the mountains of the Balkans. It prefers rocky terrain and mountain slopes. These birds are rarely found at lower altitudes. Mountain pipits are known for their active lifestyle. They eagerly jump and run over rocky terrain, searching for insects and larvae. During the breeding season, they make melodies that are often heard in mountainous regions.

Mountain wagtails are high-mountain adaptations. Their coloration helps them camouflage themselves in rocky environments.

These birds migrate for the winter, descending to lower areas in search of food. They return to their breeding grounds in the spring.

They build nests in rock crevices or abandoned cavities, protecting their eggs from predators.

Their diet consists mainly of insects and larvae, which they collect on the ground. They are also eager to hunt near rivers and streams.



Eurasian wild boar



The Eurasian wild boar is a species of large, terrestrial placental mammal from the porcine family. It is the only representative of wild pigs in Europe. It is the ancestor of the domestic pig. An invasive species outside its natural range. The wild boar is a popular game animal and as such, it has many detailed terms in the language of hunters that allow it to briefly describe the animal and its behavior. A female wild boar is called a sow, the male a boar, the young pigs, and a piglet with a characteristic striped color – a striped pig.

Red fox



The red fox is a species of predatory mammal from the canidae family. Spread across the entire Northern Hemisphere, from the Arctic Circle through North America, Europe and Asia. The range of its occurrence increases with the expansion of humans, thanks to which it has reached, among others, to Australia, where it is considered a pest that threatens the lives of local mammals and birds. For these reasons, among others, it was included on the IUCN list of protected species as a lower risk species. It has also been placed on the list of the 100 most invasive species. Among foxes, the red fox has the most progressive predatory characteristics. These include its size (it is the largest representative of foxes) and high adaptability to new environments. Despite the species name, there are often colors other than red, which is the result of frequent changes in the genetic material, including albinism and melanism. Currently, there are 45 subspecies of red fox, which can be divided into two groups – large breeds, inhabiting northern areas, and small breeds, residing mainly in Asia, mainly in its central-eastern part. Red foxes are social animals whose herds are led by an alpha pair that has the sole right to breed. The remaining pack members are usually the offspring of the alpha pair, who stay with the parents to help care for the puppies. The red fox hunts mainly small rodents, but also feeds on leporidae, galliformes, small reptiles, invertebrates and small ungulates. They also occasionally eat fruit and vegetables. In turn, it is exposed to attacks from wolves, coyotes, jackals and medium and large felines. The species has a long history of relationships with humans – it has been exterminated for centuries as a pest and a raw material for fur production.

Badger

The body length of a badger is approximately 90 cm and its height is approximately 30 cm. The animal is quite strongly built, has stiff gray fur (legs and belly are black), and has two characteristic black stripes on its white head. The badger is an omnivore and easily adapts its food preferences to the resources of the environment in which it lives. It feeds mainly on earthworms, snails, insects and their larvae, young mammals (mainly rodents), birds and their eggs. Its diet also includes cereals and fruit, and it does not despise carrion. It is nocturnal. It is a very clean animal – it excretes feces into specially dug holes, but it emits a very unpleasant odor from glands located near its tail. Its natural enemies are the wolf, lynx and man, because the badger is a game animal. Badgers can be hunted from September to November, and in areas where capercaillie occur – all year round. The badger is in heat in July and August. The female gives birth to two to four young, which become independent after they are one year old. In autumn, the badger intensively prepares for hibernation, which lasts with interruptions until March.





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