

RED panda

AILURUS FULGENS

HABITAT



The red panda shares the giant panda's rainy, high-altitude forest habitat, but has a wider range. Red pandas live in the mountains of Nepal and northern Myanmar (Burma), as well as in central China. These animals spend most of their lives in trees and even sleep aloft.

RELATIVES

The red panda is about the size of a house cat, but shares many characteristics with both the Great Panda, and Racoons. They have been a 140 year challenge for scientists to identify, and have finally been put in a scientific family all their own, the *Ailuridae*.

5 FUN FACTS

1. The pandas use their ringed tails as wraparound blankets in the chilly mountain heights.
2. Red pandas have false thumbs that help them to hold on as they eat bamboo leaves.
3. They are known escape artists, having broken out of zoos in London; Dresden, Germany; Rotterdam; Birmingham; and Washington D.C.
4. These pandas have many nicknames, such as “red cat-bear,” “lesser panda,” and “Firefox.”
5. Red pandas are an endangered species, with only 10,000 left on Earth.

