AFRICA’S GIRAFFE

Did you know that there are now four different species of giraffe, instead of only one?

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

**Masai giraffe** *Giraffa tippelskirchi*

This giraffe is recognisably darker than other species.

- **Patches:** Large and dark-brown. Shaped distinctively like vine leaves. The edges are jagged. The patches are surrounded by a creamy-brown colour.
- **Lower legs:** The same creamy-brown which surrounds the patches, there are no patterns.

**Southern giraffe** *Giraffa giraffa*

The southern giraffe has two subspecies. Their markings are slightly different from each other:

- **Kordofan giraffe** *G. c. antiquorum*
  - **Patches:** Pale and irregular. The patches are surrounded by an off-white, creamy colour.
  - **Lower legs:** Noticeably white with no patterns.

- **South African giraffe** *G. g. giraffa*
  - **Patches:** Star-shaped and various shades of brown. The patches are surrounded by a light tan colour.
  - **Lower legs:** Randomly speckled with uneven spots.

- **Angolan giraffe** *G. g. angolensis*
  - **Patches:** Large, uneven and irregularly notched. Light brown. The patches are surrounded by a pale cream colour.
  - **Lower legs:** Randomly speckled with uneven spots.

- **Masai giraffe** *Giraffa tippelskirchi*
  - **Patches:** Pale and irregular blotches. It has no markings below the hocks.

- **Nubian giraffe** *G. c. camelopardalis*
  - **Patches:** Large and rectangular. Chestnut-brown. The patches are surrounded by an off-white, creamy colour.
  - **Lower legs:** Noticeably white with no patterns.

- **Reticulated giraffe** *Giraffa reticulata*
  - **Patches:** Rich orange-brown. The patches are surrounded by a network of striking white lines.
  - **Lower legs:** Often, the broad, striking white lines that surround the patches continue the entire length of their legs.

- **West African giraffe** *G. c. peralta*
  - **Patches:** Rectangular and tan coloured. The patches are broadly surrounded by a creamy colour.
  - **Lower legs:** Noticeably white with no patterns.

**Northern giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis*

The northern giraffe has three subspecies. Their markings are slightly different from each other:

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) is dedicated to a sustainable future for all giraffe populations in the wild. GCF is the only NGO in the world that concentrates solely on the conservation and management of giraffe in the wild throughout Africa.

giraffeconservation.org