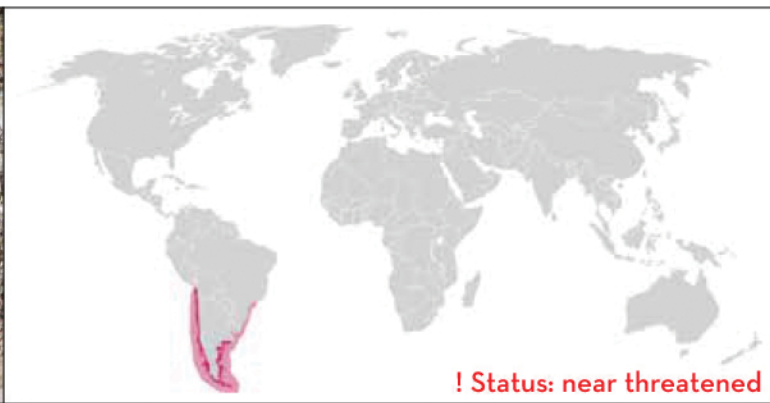


## MAGELLANIC PENGUIN

updated March 2017



<b>Range</b>	Southern coasts of South America and Falkland Islands
<b>Habitat</b>	Sandy beach to wooded slopes, usually within $\frac{1}{3}$ mile of the sea
<b>Diet (wild)</b>	Small fish, squid, and crustaceans
<b>Diet (captivity)</b>	Herring, capelin, smelt
<b>Description</b>	Length: 23–27 inches; weight: 7–10 pounds. White with a broad black band under their chin and another black band that runs in an inverted horseshoe shape around their front. Chest is dotted with a few black spots in a random pattern. Chicks and younger penguins have gray-blue backs with a more faded gray-blue color on their chest.
<b>Lifespan</b>	Wild: not available. Captivity: 12–14 years
<b>Reproduction</b>	Two eggs are laid and incubation takes 39–42 days. Chicks are raised and guarded for 29 days after hatching. Both parents take turns sitting on the nest. The male goes foraging for two weeks, returns, and the female goes foraging for about the same amount of time. Once the chicks hatch, parents alternate, one day foraging, one day guarding the nest. Chicks leave the nest after 60–70 days. Magellanic penguins are a monogamous species that uphold their pair bonds for many seasons. After spending about six months at sea, they return each spring to the rookery where they were born.
<b>Behavior</b>	Flippers are modified wings used in a “flying” motion underwater. They can porpoise (jump out of the water) at about 9 mph (14 kph). Magellanic penguins often roam north into the tropics and have learned to relax on long journeys by lying on their sides and raising one foot high in the air while swimming. They make a braying sound at night with a melancholy sound like “hull-oo.” Their chief predators are sea lions, Dominican gulls, and giant petrels.
<b>Our animals</b>	4 females, 5 males. Born: 1999–2015
<b>Cool stuff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magellanic penguins are named after Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who spotted the birds in 1520.</li> <li>• Magellanic penguins have about 70 feathers per square inch. Penguins have more feathers per square inch than any other bird (emperor penguins have 100 feather per square inch). The feathers are small and fit together very tightly making them look like smooth fur. Penguins spread natural oil over the feathers (preening) that acts as insulation and reduces friction, helping them glide smoothly through the water.</li> <li>• Unlike flighted birds, penguins have solid bones which are heavier and help with buoyancy.</li> <li>• The species is listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN primarily due to the vulnerability of large breeding colonies to oil spills, which kill 20,000 adults and 22,000 juveniles every year off the coast of Argentina.</li> <li>• Climate change has displaced fish populations, so Magellanic penguins must swim an extra 25 miles (40 km) further from the nest for fish. While the penguins are swimming that extra 50 miles (80 km), their mates are sitting on the nest and starving.</li> <li>• Magellanic penguins have been recorded diving to depths of up to 250 feet (76 meters).</li> </ul>

Phylum  
ChordataClass  
AvesOrder  
SphenisciformesFamily  
SpheniscidaeGenus  
Spheniscusspecies  
*S. magellanicus*