

# Griffon Vulture



## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Gyps fulvus*

## GLOBAL RANGE

Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Western Asia, Central Asia and the Indian Subcontinent

## EUROPEAN RANGE



## GLOBAL STATUS

Least Concern

## GLOBAL POPULATION

500,000-999,999 mature individuals

## HABITAT

Rocky areas, shrubland, grassland; breeds on cliffs

## SIZE

95-110 cm

## WEIGHT

6-11 kg

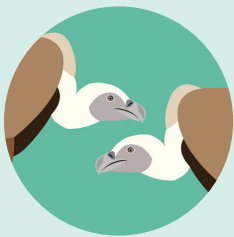
## WINGSPAN

240-280 cm

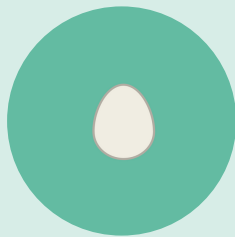
## LIFE EXPECTANCY

Up to 37 years in captivity

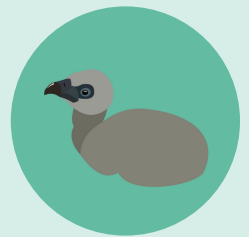
## BREEDING CYCLE



The species breeds in colonies. It becomes sexually mature at 5 years old, but it can even breed at 4 or more rarely, at 3. The breeding season usually starts in December.



If successful, it usually lays one egg between January and April each year. The parents diligently incubate the egg for around 55 days, until hatching.



The parents will raise their chick until it takes its first flight and leaves the nest, around 110-120 days after hatching. After this, it might still return to the nest for food.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Griffon Vultures are very social in comparison to other vulture species. They forage in groups and breed in colonies on steep cliffs, sometimes numbering hundreds of individuals. When they detect carrion, a feeding frenzy occurs, as individuals step on one another to acquire their preferred parts of a carcass.



## THREATS & CONSERVATION



Following several conservation actions tackling threats like electrocution, the species is making an extraordinary comeback in Europe, with its breeding population exceeding 35,000 pairs.



Because Griffon Vultures forage in groups, poisoning can kill many individuals at a time. Projects like the Balkan Anti-Poisoning Project work to fight this severe threat.



To improve food availability, conservationists work with farmers to create win-win situations where farmers leave dead livestock in the field to get a free carcass disposal service by vultures.

## WHY ARE VULTURES IMPORTANT?

As nature's cleanup crew, vultures provide important environmental services that benefit nature, wildlife and society as a whole.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GRIFFON VULTURE AND ITS CONSERVATION

Visit:

[www.4vultures.org/vultures/griffon-vulture](http://www.4vultures.org/vultures/griffon-vulture)

