

## Breeding

At **3 years old**, every spring Gentoos will build their nests out of stones in their small colonies. Gentoo penguins generally will have the same mating partner for life.



## Nesting

Occurs **6 weeks** before hatching. Parents work together to build a circular nest made out of pebbles.



## Laying Eggs

Occurs **4 weeks** before hatching. The female lays 2 eggs in the nest and the parents share the duties of incubation.



## Hatchling

**0-28 days**  
During the first month, parents take turns hunting for food and guarding the chicks from predators.



## Chicks

The chicks are large enough to leave the nest and gather with other penguin chicks, while their parents hunt for food. During this time they lose their incubating down and start to grow their adult feathers.



## Annual Molt

During the breeding season, penguins become thin and their feathers damaged. Once the chicks have fledged, adult penguins spend weeks at sea fattening up, before their annual molt.



## Learning to swim

At **70 days** old the fledging start to venture out into the sea. Their parents continue to feed them for the week, while they learn to swim.



## Juvenile

**1-2 years old**, Gentoo penguins remain close to their breeding grounds.



# SEA★LIFE Gentoo Penguin Life Cycle



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# King Penguin Life Cycle

## Juvenile

Juvenile King Penguins generally look like adults, except for their beak. Before it turns to the orange colour of an adult, it is a dark purple color; this lets other penguins know they are still a juvenile. They also still sound young, with their calls aimed at their parents until they reach maturity.



## Breeding

King Penguins mature at 3 years of age, but they may not breed for several years after this. During mating season, they pick one mate and raise a chick together, but are likely to choose a different mate next season.



## Laying Eggs

King Penguins don't make nests like some other penguin species. Instead, they lay one egg at a time and balance it on their feet. It is kept warm in a special fold of skin called a brood patch. Both parents take turns holding the egg for 50-60 days.



## Hatchling

Chicks "pip" by poking a hole in the egg and then chip away until they can climb out. This can take up to three days. Once the chick hatches, it continues to stay warm on top of its parent's feet for another 30-40 days until it is able to keep itself warm. Parents feed their chick by regurgitating food.



## Chicks

Once the chick is big enough to keep itself warm, they join the other chicks in a "crèche". They crowd together for warmth and protection whilst growing long fluffy feathers. The chicks keep each other company while their parents go hunting for food.



## Annual Moul

Chicks will lose their fluffy brown feathers and the black, white and orange adult feathers will emerge. King penguins experience an annual moult of their feathers over a 4-5 week period. Their worn out feathers fall out, while new ones grow in. They are unable to swim during this time, as they are not water-proof, so they fatten up by eating lots of food before it begins.



## Learning to swim

King Penguins are initially nervous about their first swim. They observe their parents diving and swimming, then carefully attempt it for themselves.

