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## WILD BOARS

*Sus scrofa*

Native to Eurasia and now found around the world, wild boars are very adaptable. Boars eat almost anything, including nuts, berries, carrion, roots, and trash. Such a wide range of food sources has enabled wild boars to thrive in a variety of environments, but are most often found in forests and woods. In Russia's Far East, boars grow especially big, mostly because of the availability of large and nutritious pine nuts.

### Fun Facts

- Wild boars are the ancestors of domestic pigs.
- Wild boars range in size from 90-700 pounds and are 3-6.5 feet in length.
- Social animals, they live in small groups called "sounders" or "drifts," usually of 20 animals, but groups of 50 have been observed.
- Both males and females have tusks, although they are smaller in females.
- Wild boars have a good sense of smell which allows them to find underground food. They have poor eyesight, but excellent hearing.
- Hair from the neck area of the boar was commonly used to make toothbrushes before synthetic materials were introduced in the 1930s.



### Meet the Boars

A pair of wild boars called "Boris and "Natasha", along with their eight offspring, will be on exhibit at *Russia's Grizzly Coast*. Many animals called "wild boar" in North America, including farms in Wisconsin, have interbred with domestic pigs and are not quite the same as the true *sus scrofa*. The animals at the Minnesota Zoo are known to have descended directly from stock in Russia and are therefore true examples of wild boars.