



Indian Rock Python

Scientific Name: *Python molurus molurus*

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Boidae



Rock pythons are a large nonvenomous python species found in many tropic and sub tropic areas of the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia. The body is thick with shiny smooth scales. The dorsal surface may have irregular shaped patches of dark brown or black. The ground dorsal color is white mixed with yellow, gray, or brown. Their heads are triangular, clearly broader than the neck. Heat sensitive pits are found laterally on the snout. An arrow-shape mark is present on the posterior side of the head, usually faint in the adults. The tail is short, having dark yellow and black reticulations. The Indian Rock Python tends to be 3.7 meters (12 ft). They can weigh more than 200 pounds.

Range

Found in India, southern Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and north of Myanmar

Habitat

Grasslands, swamps, marshes, rocky foothills, woodlands, “open” jungle and river valleys’ need to be near a continuous water supply.

Litter

Up to 100 eggs

Behavior

Rock pythons are nocturnal, hunting for mice, civets, small deer or birds. During the day they bask in the sun or rest in the shade.

Reproduction

They display a parenting behavior that is very unusual for reptiles, most of which provide no care for eggs or neonates. A female will lay her eggs and then wrap her coils around them. She then incubates them by making a series of muscular contractions all through her body which raises her temperature a few degrees. She does this intermittently during the 80 or so days it takes for the eggs to hatch. Once hatched, the young are on their own.

Wild Diet

Mammals and birds