

SEA★LIFE

Gentoo Penguin Life Cycle

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 Moul

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 moult.



Juvenile

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



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.

