



AXIS DEER (CHITAL)

Axis axis

SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

Axis deer range from 2.5 to 3 feet in height.

WEIGHT

Adult axis deer weigh from 145 to 250 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Axis deer primarily survive on grass, but they will also eat herbs and acorns.

HABITAT

Axis deer do best in grasslands where water is available.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Axis deer are native to southern Asia, including Pakistan, India, and Southeast Asia.

FUN FACT

Axis deer can be eaten! In fact, in a taste test, axis venison was rated the “top tasting meat” compared to 22 other wild species.



Also called the chital or spotted Indian deer, axis deer are identified by the reddish-brown color of their fur, which is spotted with white dots. Male axis deer are distinguished by their facial markings, which make the animal look as if it is scowling.

The axis deer is native to southern Asia. However, starting in the 1930s, axis deer were introduced into Texas, where they are now widespread on private lands. They have also been introduced with success to Hawaii. They have become an important hunting resource in the United States.

