



BLUE SHEEP (BHARAL)

Pseudois nayaur



The blue sheep is known for its slate grey coat with a bluish sheen. Horns, found in both sexes, are ridged on the upper surface. In males, they grow upwards and sideways before curving backwards. In females, the horns are much shorter and straighter. Blue sheep practice two antipredator strategies. They almost always remain near cliffs so that they can run toward the rugged slopes to avoid danger. They also give sharp alarm calls to warn fellow members of the herd. They are active throughout the day, alternating between feeding and resting periods on the grassy mountain slopes. Their main predators include the snow leopard, mountain fox, and tawny eagle.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

Blue sheep stand about 3 feet high at the shoulder with a body length of 4 to 5.5 feet.

WEIGHT

Blue sheep weigh between 77 and 165 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Blue sheep feed mainly on dry grasses in the winter and on alpine grasses in the summer.

HABITAT

Blue sheep occupy a variety of habitats from the searing heat of desert mountains to windy and cold slopes. They are usually found near cliffs.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Blue sheep are distributed broadly across the Tibetan plateau at altitudes of 10,000 to 18,500 feet.

FUN FACT

This animal derives its name from the blue sheen often found in its coat.