

#WILDLIFE

Shorter, Fatter,
and Hairier

Fun facts about the world's smallest Reindeer.



While they won't be pulling Santa's sleigh anytime soon, Svalbard reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus platyrhynchus*) objectively could win a North Pole cuteness contest. This subspecies of reindeer is only found on Norway's Svalbard archipelago situated at roughly five-feet long and three-feet tall and about half the size of other reindeer.

"They are actually quite morphologically unique from other reindeer. They're shorter, they're fatter, they're hairier," says Samantha Paige Dinnell, an Ecologist who studies this unique subspecies in Svalbard, tells *Popular Science*. "Their hair is twice as long and they are the fattest of the deer family in the world." Here are some more things to know about Earth's smallest reindeer.

Svalbard is like their own little paradise

Svalbard reindeer have been living on this archipelago for 5,000 years. Over that time, they have been isolated from other populations of reindeer on mainland Europe. "They don't have any real natural predators and they evolved in an ecosystem without real predators," says Dinnell. "Polar bears will occasionally kill any reindeer. But since polar bears are technically a marine mammal, they just usually actually don't have much spatial overlap."

They are master adapters

Like other reindeer and caribou, they have adaptations for their ever-shifting world. They technically live in what's considered a high arctic desert, where there is not a lot of deep snow, but it is still very cold. Summer temperatures typically only reach the mid-50 Fahrenheit.

"The harshest can essentially be zero degrees Celsius, while their core body temperature stays stable," explains Dinnell. The cell structure in their eyes also changes from the winter to the summer.

A Haven Amidst Chaos

For the Williams family, Christmas at the church is a tradition that has spanned three generations. Anna Williams, the family matriarch, describes it as "a time when we reconnect, with each other, with our faith, and with the essence of what it means to belong." Inderjit Khanna, a former IAS officer and a member of the church says, "Every year on Christmas at the Holy Communion Service, the congregation numbers are two and half times more than the normal days. People from all over India as well as the world attend this service. After the service, it is a get-together of sorts over cups of coffee and cake."

**A Royal Offering:
The Maharaja's Gift
of Unity**

The story of All Saints' Church begins with an extraordinary act of generosity in 1875. Lieutenant General His Highness Maharaja Dhiraj Sir Sawal Madha Singh Bahadur, ruler of Jaipur, granted 17 bighas of land and Rs. 3,000 to build the church. This gesture was more than philanthropy; it was a statement of inclusivity: a vision of Jaipur as a city where diverse communities could thrive together. Bishop Robert Milman, who oversaw the project, was a man of great vision and determination. He secured additional funds and contributed personally to ensure that the church would become a sanctuary for Jaipur's Christian community. His efforts culminated in a structure that was not just a building but a symbol of unity and resilience. The final cost of Rs. 21,000 reflected more than monetary value, it represented the collective spirit of a community united in faith. It was a foundation that would support generations to come.

The First Christmas: A Morning to Remember

December 25, 1876 dawned crisp and bright, carrying an air of anticipation. The first service at All Saints' Church brought together a congregation eager to witness history. Mary, an elderly woman who attended that day, often recounted the moment to her family. "We lit candles, and as we sang, the light seemed to dance with the hymns," she would say, her voice tinged with nostalgia. "It was as if heaven had touched this little corner of Jaipur." Two years later, in 1878, the church was consecrated by Bishop E.R. Johnson. From that day forward, All Saints' Church became a spiritual home, a place where countless lives intersected in shared faith and fellowship.

**A Respite from the Desert Heat**

Jaipur's summers are infamous for their intensity, yet All Saints' Church remains a cool haven, thanks to its ingenious design. The architects employed slab stone sunshades and climbing creepers to create a natural cooling system,

shielding the interiors from the relentless sun. Inside, recessed alcoves with window seats offer more than physical comfort; they provide spaces for spiritual respite. Travellers from distant lands have often paused here, finding shade and serenity before continuing their journeys.

One such traveller, an Englishman named Edward, wrote in his diary in 1904, "Amid the sweltering heat of Jaipur, I found solace in this beautiful church. Its walls seemed to breathe peace."

THE WALL

**MUST DO: MAKE
A TO-DO LIST.**

BABY BLUES

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

Hanukkah

The history of Hanukkah revolves around a tyrant king who was abusive to the Jewish people and destroyed their sacred Temple in 167 BC. With the aim of getting the temple back, some rebels called the 'Maccabees,' revolted against the king, taking the city back and rebuilding their temple. While the temple oil, used to light the menorah, should only have been enough for one day, it lasted for eight days and this was celebrated as a miracle. This thread continues in today's observance of Hanukkah, in the eight-day celebration and the lighting of candles.



#CURTAIN RAISER

JAIGARH HERITAGE FESTIVAL



The Jaigarh Heritage Festival, to be held at the historic Jaigarh Fort from December 27 to 29, will showcase an exquisite blend of music, art, heritage, and culinary delights.

Featuring performances by iconic artists,

thought-provoking discussions, craft workshops, and immersive experiences, this inaugural festival is set to honour the past while inspiring the future.



Stories Through Conversations

Rising from the rugged Aravalli hills, Jaigarh Fort stands as a testament to the valour and ingenuity of the Rajput rulers, who built it in 1726 to safeguard Jaipur's treasures. Known as the 'Fort of Victory,' this architectural marvel now readies itself to host the inaugural *Jaigarh Heritage Festival*. Scheduled from December 27 to 29, this three-day extravaganza promises an immersive experience of India's rich cultural legacy. Organized by Teamwork Arts in collaboration with His Highness Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh of Jaipur, the festival offers a meticulously curated blend of music, dance, art, and heritage, all against the breathtaking backdrop of the historic fort.

Crafts That Inspire

The festival's Craft Courtyard offers a unique opportunity to connect with Jaipur's artisanal legacy. Visitors can witness traditional crafts like blue pottery and applique embroidery come to life.

For culinary enthusiasts, the festival serves up a feast of flavours with a diverse spread of Indian cuisine. Sanjiv K. Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts, shared his enthusiasm, saying, "We are delighted to announce the first edition of the Jaigarh Heritage Festival. It is going to be a celebration of India's culture at the historic Jaigarh Fort, bringing together some of India's finest performers, thinkers, and artisans. Through these offerings, we hope to showcase an array of musical genres, dance forms, and traditional crafts that India has nourished throughout centuries." With its perfect blend of history, art, and culture, the Jaigarh Heritage Festival is poised to become a cornerstone event for Jaipur.

In a session with author Ashwita Jayakumar, Other luminaries, such as Tripti Pandey, a celebrated travel writer, Rima Hooja, an expert on Rajasthan's history, and Neelesh Misra, India's beloved radio storyteller, will add their voices to these enriching dialogues.

Crafts That Inspire

Music That Resonates

A Sensory Experience

Ences from around the world to experience the soul of Jaipur." Sanjiv K. Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts, shared his enthusiasm, saying, "We are delighted to announce the first edition of the Jaigarh Heritage Festival. It is going to be a celebration of India's culture at the historic Jaigarh Fort, bringing together some of India's finest performers, thinkers, and artisans. Through these offerings, we hope to showcase an array of musical genres, dance forms, and traditional crafts that India has nourished throughout centuries." With its perfect blend of history, art, and culture, the Jaigarh Heritage Festival is poised to become a cornerstone event for Jaipur.

