

Nilgai Antelope

(*Boselaphus tragocamelus*)



The Nilgai skull shows distinct adaptations for feeding, sensing danger, and social interaction. Its large, wide molars with high, sharp crowns are ideal for grinding tough plant matter. Instead of upper incisors, Nilgai have a hard palate that works with the lower incisors to shear vegetation. A noticeable gap between the incisors and molars allows the animal to manipulate and temporarily store food before chewing.



Positioned on the sides of the skull, the large eye sockets give the Nilgai an impressive field of vision—about 320 degrees—helping detect predators from almost any direction. In males, short, strong horns curve upwards and slightly inwards, serving both for dominance displays and in combat with rivals.

The Nilgai is the largest antelope in Asia, widely found across the northern Indian subcontinent. As mixed feeders, they browse on leaves and fruits while also grazing on grasses, allowing them to thrive in a variety of habitats.