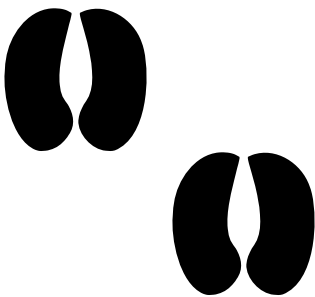


# Bison Facts & Common Questions

## Reasons to View Bison from a safe distance!

1. Bison are very large animals weighing up to 2000 pounds.
2. They are wildlife and like any other wild animal they are very unpredictable.
3. Bison can run up to 30 mph, which is three times as fast as you can run.
4. They may be big but they are not slow, and can turn in the blink of an eye.
5. Their horns are very sharp and can be used for protection.
6. During breeding season the bulls will fight for the cows. Pushing and goring each other, so you should keep your distance to stay safe.
7. Like any other mother cows are very protective of their young.
8. Bison often travel in herds, so you should always be aware that their may be more bison nearby.
9. They are not pets or farm animals ALWAYS use caution around them.
10. Did I mention that they are BIG and QUICK?



### 1. What is the difference between a bison and a buffalo?

The terms are largely interchangeable. Except on a biology test. Technically, what we have in the United States is bison. Buffalo are what they have in Africa (the African Cape Buffalo) and in Asia (the Asian Water Buffalo).

### 2. How much does a bison weigh?

At birth a bison calf weighs about fifty pounds. A full grown adult bull can weigh around 2000 pounds. Cows (female bison) average around 1,000 pounds

### 3. How tall are bison?

A full grown bull is about six feet tall.

### 4. Do only male buffaloes have horns?

No, both male and female buffaloes have horns.



An older bull paying a visit to the Painted Canyon Overlook.

### 5. Are bison calves usually born at a particular time of the year?

Yes. Bison calves are usually born from late April to Mid June. They weigh about fifty pounds at birth, and are born with a cinnamon-colored coat, which they shed in about two months. The new coat grows out to be the familiar dark brown color one sees in adult bison.

### 6. Are Bison really big and slow?

NO, Bison can run up to 30 mph . When Native American's hunted them on horse back they had to catch the bison within the first mile or the horse would get tired and the bison would continue to run. BISON are very quick and unpredictable.

### 7. How do bison hold up that big head?

Bison have a very strong muscle which wraps around a bone in their back forming their hump. This muscle helps them to hold up their massive head and to run quickly.

### 8. What is wallowing?

Wallowing is when bison roll on the prairie giving themselves a dust bath which acts like a natural bug repellent. Wallowing creates a saucer like depression called a wallow.

### 9. How do bison stay warm and dry in the winter?

The bison's coat acts like a protective blanket and is water repellent. The cold doesn't get in, and the bison's warm body heat doesn't get out.

### 10. How does a mother bison find it's calf?

Bison mothers probably recognize their own calves by their smell and the sound of their cry, called a bleat.