



RETICULATED PYTHON



by Craig Boutland



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by Craig Boutland

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Minneapolis, Minnesota

Credits

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Massive Snake

A massive snake slithers across the **rain forest** floor. It inches forward, slowly moving its 30-foot (9-m) long body between the trees. The reticulated python is one of the deadliest **predators** around, and it's all because of that big body. Luckily, most people are unlikely to ever meet one of these strong snakes.



A large reticulated python is coiled on the forest floor, surrounded by green foliage and brown leaves. The snake's body is covered in a complex pattern of yellow, black, and grey scales. Its head is raised, showing its orange eyes and slightly open mouth.

**The reticulated
python is the
world's longest
snake.**


A Perfect Home

Reticulated pythons prefer hot, damp **habitats**. They make their homes in the rain forests and wetlands of Southeast Asia. These powerful giants are usually found near rivers and ponds, and they are excellent swimmers. Reticulated pythons have even been seen swimming in the ocean. When they aren't swimming, smaller pythons spend a lot of time in trees and larger snakes slither along the ground.



Where pythons live

Reticulated pythons live in Southeast Asia.

A reticulated python is shown in shallow, rippling water. The snake's head is in the foreground, with its mouth wide open, revealing its pink tongue and sharp teeth. Its body, covered in a pattern of dark brown and tan spots, extends into the background. The water is a murky, brownish-grey color. In the foreground, a large, flat rock with a mottled brown and orange surface is partially submerged. A yellow circular callout with a blue border is positioned in the upper right area of the image.

**Some reticulated
pythons live on islands
in the Pacific Ocean.
They probably reached
the islands by
swimming.**