

Pine Marten

martes martes

In the same family as our Irish Badger, the Pine Marten is the rarest native mammal in the country and has been in Ireland for at least 6000 years. Pine Martens are a protected species so it is illegal to trap, kill or disturb them.



Pine Marten facts

- The Pine Marten is known as Cat Crainn in Irish, meaning tree cat.
- Although not very vocal, they will use cat like calls, purrs and meows to communicate.
- They have excellent hearing and eyesight and a good sense of smell which they use to find food and identify other pine martens territory.
- They are most active at dawn and dusk when they will be out hunting for food.



Where do they live?

Pine Martens are arboreal, so they live in the trees. They are expert climbers with sharp claws and a long tail to help them balance as they walk along the tree branches. In areas without woodland they can be found on open, rocky areas with good ground cover.



What do Pine Martens eat?

Pine Martens are carnivores but will eat a variety of foods including berries, fruit, small mammals, invertebrates, birds and amphibians.

males average 50cm in length, 68cm with tail
females are 45cm, 62cm with tail



Did you know?

A group of pine martens is called a richness.
Newborn pine martens are called kits and are born blind and hairless.



males weigh 1.5kg
females 1.1kg

The Pine Marten wordsearch

Can you find all the words? The answers go in all directions!



climber territory hunting richness arboreal
pine marten carnivore woodland mammal
claws berries cat kits



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