

The Vampire Bat Quiz

1. How many species of vampire bat are there?

- a. 3
- b. 28
- c. 63

2. Where are vampire bats found?

- a. Central and South America.
- b. Kandersteg
- c. China

3. What do vampire bats mostly feed on?

- a. Human Blood
- b. The blood of horses, donkeys, pigs, goats.
- c. Fruit

4. How long does a vampire bat live in the wild?

- a. 49 years
- b. 19 years
- c. 9 years

5. How many babies (pups) does a vampire bat usually have at once?

- a. 20
- b. 5
- c. 1

6. How do vampire bats usually approach its victim?

- a. Land on the ground near by and quietly 'tiptoe' over to the victim.
- b. Land directly on the victim.
- c. Hide in trees and wait for the victim to pass underneath.

Vampire Bat Facts

Vampire bats live in colonies in almost completely dark places, such as caves, old wells, hollow trees, and buildings. Colonies can range from a single individual to thousands.

Each colony will usually contain only one adult male, with around twenty females and their babies (pups).

If a vampire bat doesn't feed for two nights in a row, it will die. After a successful hunt, each bat will share its food with the rest of the colony to ensure survival.

If there is fur on the skin, the Common Vampire Bat uses its canine and cheek teeth like a barber's shears to clip away the hairs. The bat's razor-sharp upper incisor teeth then make a 7mm long and 8mm deep cut.



As the sun disappears behind the mountains and darkness falls over the valley, Kandersteg's night time fliers emerge...



BATS!

As you walk around the campsite and village just after sunset, do you see small shapes flitting in and out of the shadows?

WELCOME TO THE DARK WORLD OF KANDERSTEG BATS!

Do you want to learn more about these amazing mammals?

Do you want to go bat spotting?

YES? THEN READ ON

This leaflet provides:

- Amazing Batty Facts
- How to go Bat Spotting
- Where to Bat Spot in Kandersteg
- Our Bat Quiz

Before you set out on your bat watch, please read this leaflet and come to the Front Office to pick up your Bat Detector and



bat watch

GO BAT SPOTTING!

Step 1: What do you need to take?

- Warm / waterproof clothes
- Hiking boots or stout shoes
- Torch (Optional)
- **Bat Bat** - this allows you to see bats as they fly around lights.

Hold the bat up to block out the light, you will then be able to see any bats clearly.

- **Bat Detector** - use this electronic device to locate bats, identify the bat type and what the bat is doing.

Bat Bats and Bat Detectors are available from the Reception.

Step 2: Where will you see bats?

The bats in Kandersteg are most easily seen near street lights where they are after the insects attracted by the light. They are also commonly found near water. Some ideas for bat spotting locations are given below. Use the map to help you navigate.

- 1 Top Bat Spot location! Walk past KISC towards Sunnbüel cable car. Where the fields start, look out for bats in the street lights.
- 2 Walk down the main road towards the village. Stop near the first bridge and look out for bats. You will see them flying around the street lights.
- 3 At the small lake behind Des Alpes.
- 4 On the road into the village, pay attention to the street lights.
- 5 See if you can find bats as you walk along the back footpath past Higeldy Pigeldy Woods.
- 6 Do we have bats on the nature reserve? Try and find out.

Can you find any other good bat spots? Explore the valley and let us know what you find.

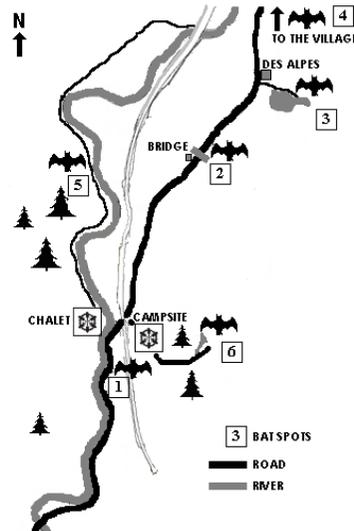
Step 3: When to go?

Bats emerge as the sun goes down. Plan your bat watch to start as the light begins to disappear and stay out as late as you want!

Step 4: Off you go!

You have your equipment and you know where you are going and when, so off you go! The key things to remember when searching for bats are:

- Be observant - keep looking and listening (to the bat detector)
- Keep nice and quiet
- Be patient
- And, don't shine your torch at the bats, it will scare them away



Step 5: What did you see?

After your bat watching expedition, use the questions below to discuss what you saw as a group.

- Where did you see the most bats? Why?
- Where were there no bats? Why?
- Did you find bats anywhere unexpected?
- What are your thoughts about bats?
- If you used a bat detector:
 - Did you hear different bat sounds?
 - If so, do you think they were different bat species or different bat activities? (for example, feeding, social calls, direction finding)

If you would like to tell us what you saw, a bat watch results sheet is available from the Front Office. We will use this information to learn more about the natural environment around KISC.

AMAZING BATTY FACTS!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Bats are the only mammals that can truly fly.
- Of about 4,500 different species of mammal in the world, nearly 1,100 are bats.
- Three quarters of these eat insects. In the tropics bats also eat fruit, flowers, frogs, fish, blood and even other bats.
- The bats in Switzerland eat insects.
- They can eat as many as 2,000 insects every night.
- Bats are not blind. Their eyesight is very good but they also use echo location to navigate in the dark and find food.
- Bats are the only land based mammals that use echo location.
- Echo location enables the bats to see in the dark by listening to the echoes of their high frequency calls.
- Bats live in cracks in buildings, caves and hollow trees.
- They look for somewhere quiet and draught free.
- The bats in Switzerland (as in many other countries) are protected by law.
- The smallest mammal in the world is the Bumblebee Bat.
- The oldest bat fossil is 52 million years old!
- Bats are vital pollinators. They help the flowers and plants grow!