



LIFE CYCLE OF A PEACOCK



peacock's
**Life
Cycle**

The life cycle of the Indian peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), India's national bird, has four main stages: **egg**, **peachick (hatchling)**, **juvenile**, and **adult**. The male is known for its vibrant, iridescent plumage, while the female, or peahen, has a subtler coloration.



1. Egg

- **Description:** The Indian peacock's life begins when the female, or peahen, lays eggs, typically in a shallow ground nest hidden among vegetation. The peahen usually lays between 3 and 12 eggs per clutch.
- **Incubation Period:** The eggs require around **28–30 days** to hatch. During this time, the peahen incubates them by sitting on the nest and protecting them from predators.
- **Special Note:** Male peacocks do not participate in incubation or chick-rearing.

2. Peachick (Hatchling)

- **Description:** Once the eggs hatch, the young peachicks emerge. They have soft down feathers, which help insulate them, and they begin following their mother almost immediately.
- **Primary Goal:** Peachicks start foraging alongside their mother, feeding on insects, seeds, and small plants.
- **Special Note:** Peachicks are precocial (born with the ability to move around shortly after hatching). The peahen protects them from predators, teaching them survival skills.

3. Juvenile

- **Description:** As peachicks grow, they go through a juvenile stage, during which they develop more feathers and begin to resemble adult peafowl, though males and females look similar at this stage.
- **Duration:** The juvenile stage lasts about **1–3 years**. Males start developing their iconic train of tail feathers in the second year, though full development takes up to three years.

- **Special Note:** During this stage, young peafowl are learning social behaviors and foraging techniques, often moving in groups for safety.

4. Adult

- **Description:** By about three years of age, peacocks reach full maturity. Males have grown their splendid, iridescent trains, which they use in elaborate displays to attract mates. Peahens, while less colorful, are well-camouflaged, aiding in nesting and protection from predators.
- **Primary Goal:** The adult stage focuses on reproduction. Male peacocks use their fan-like tail feathers in courtship displays, fanning them out to form a colorful, shimmering “train” that attracts females.
- **Special Note:** Indian peafowl can live **15–20 years** in the wild, with lifespans potentially longer in captivity.

Summary

The Indian peacock life cycle, from egg to adult, showcases their unique development and survival adaptations, including the iconic male plumage that plays a central role in mating rituals.

