

Australia, the Land Down Under



The Australian Goanna



Goanna is the name used to refer to any number of Australian monitor lizards. Being predatory lizards, goannas are often quite large, or at least bulky, with sharp teeth and claws. The largest is the perentie, which can grow over 6 feet in length. Goannas are found throughout most of Australia and are known to climb trees or outcrops. A goanna is a rather swift mover, and when pressed will sprint short distances on its hind legs. Goannas also rear up when threatened, either chased or cornered, and also inflate flaps of skin around their throats and emit harsh hissing noises.