

Jaguar vs Panther (vsdiff.com)

Features	Jaguar	Panther
Scientific Name	<i>Panthera onca</i>	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Physical Size	Average weight of 100-250 lbs	Average weight of 100-200 lbs
Habitat	Rainforests, wetlands, and grasslands	Forests, grasslands, and mountains
Diet	Carnivorous - prefers larger prey	Carnivorous - adapts to available prey
Coloring	Yellow with black rosettes	Tan with black spots
Behavior	Solitary, powerful swimmers	Solitary, excellent climbers

Feature	Jaguar (<i>Panthera onca</i>)	Panther (common name; melanistic leopard or jaguar)
Taxonomic status	Distinct species (<i>Panthera onca</i>)	Not a species — a color morph (melanism) of <i>Panthera pardus</i> or <i>Panthera onca</i>
Distribution	Neotropics: from southern USA (historically) through Central America to Argentina	Depends — <i>leopard</i> panthers in Africa/Asia; <i>jaguar</i> panthers in parts of the Americas
Coat / rosette pattern	Large rosettes with central spots; visible even in some melanistic individuals	Melanistic individuals appear mostly black but often show <i>rosette</i> patterns under light
Body & behavior	Stocky, powerful, strong swimmer; <i>terrestrial</i> ambush predator	Varies by species of origin — leopards are more arboreal and slender; melanism does not change core ecology
Conservation concerns	Habitat loss, fragmentation, conflict; status regionally variable	Threats mirror species of origin (poaching, habitat loss); melanistic frequency often higher in dense forests