

Roach

Rutilus rutilus

Fish · Here all year · spawns Apr-Jun



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A neat, silvery, moderately deep-bodied fish with a distinctly red iris, orange-red pelvic and anal fins and a dorsal fin set directly above the pelvics. Roach are common in the lochs, ponds and slower reaches of the region, often shoaling in large numbers, and hybridise readily with rudd and bream, which can make identification of individual fish awkward.

BEHAVIOUR

Roach shoal throughout their lives, feeding on insect larvae, snails, crustaceans and plant material taken from the bottom and from weed. They are tolerant of a wide range of conditions, including quite poor water quality, which is part of why they are so widespread. Spawning is in dense, splashy aggregations over weed and submerged roots in late spring, with the males developing rough white tubercles.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Carps and minnows (Cyprinidae)
SIZE	Commonly 15–30 cm
UK STATUS	Widespread; introduced to much of Scotland

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