

HOLD YOUR BREATH

Crocodiles can remain totally submerged for up to an hour. This is of great assistance in securing unsuspecting prey. When partially submerged the crocodile shuts off water from rushing into the lungs by closing the palatal valve which is located at the back of the tongue.

The nostrils at the tip of the snout lead into canals that run through bone to open behind this valve, allowing the croc to breathe even though it's jaws are under water. When the animal is totally submerged another valve seals the nostrils so the croc can open it's mouth to catch prey without fear of drowning.

