



Golden Lion Tamarin

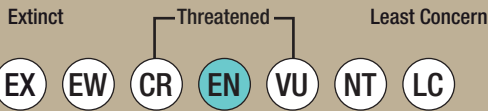
Fast Facts



Other Names: Golden Marmoset

Scientific Name: *Leontopithecus rosalia*

Conservation Status: Endangered



Body Length: 19–22 cm

Weight: 400–800 g

Gestation: 125–132 days

Number of young: 1–2

Habitat: Rainforest

Distribution: A narrow strip of rainforest on the southern coast of Brazil



Description

This small monkey takes its name from the vivid, gold-orange mane of long hair that surrounds its face. Its body and tail are also reddish while its face is dark and hairless.

Diet

Golden Lion Tamarins are omnivores. They eat fruit, flowers, nectar, plant gum, small insects, frogs and lizards.

In the wild

Predators find it hard to track Golden Lion Tamarins because they move around so much. Tamarins never nest in the same spot for more than one night. However, they do scent mark their territory as a warning to other groups of tamarins and to indicate their social status (particularly among males). The breeding males and females scent mark more often than the non-breeding members of the group.

Threats

Golden Lion Tamarins were once distributed through a much greater part of Brazil than they are today. Logging and habitat conversion were the greatest contributors to their decline and in the 1970s there were fewer than 200 in the wild.

A reintroduction program coordinated by the Smithsonian National Zoo in the USA for Golden Lion Tamarins began in 1984. Over 30 years, zoo-born Golden Lion Tamarins were reintroduced into two nature reserves. Thanks to the program, Golden Lion Tamarins can still be found in the wild and there are now about 1,600 Golden Lion Tamarins in Brazil.

Their continued survival depends on re-establishing habitat and connecting forests so their numbers can expand.

At Perth Zoo

You can find Golden Lion Tamarins in the Amazonia exhibit. Perth Zoo is part of the regional breeding program for this species.

DID YOU KNOW?

Golden Lion Tamarins emit a whine when they're alarmed. They also have a variety of other calls. Listen for screeches when they play and clucks when they're foraging.