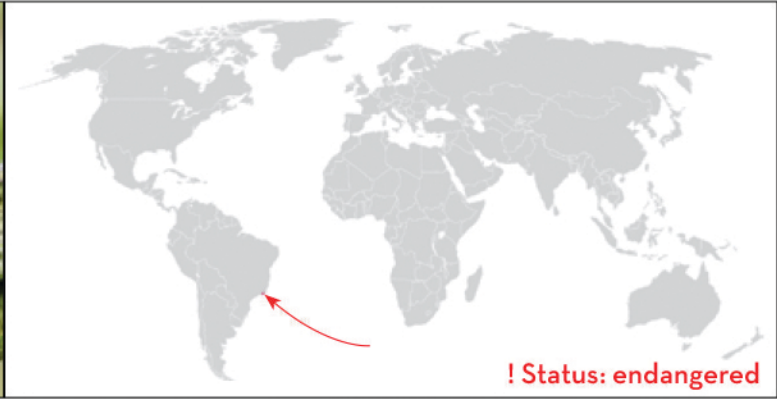


GOLDEN LION TAMARIN

updated March 2017



Range	Atlantic coast of eastern Brazil
Habitat	Main canopy of the rain forest in the coastal lowlands
Diet (wild)	Mainly fruits during the wet season; tree saps and gums during the dry season; also eat insects and small vertebrates such as lizards, snails, frogs, snakes, birds and their eggs
Diet (captive)	Monkey chow, fruit and vegetables
Description	Length: 10 inches; tail: 15 inches; weight: 1–2 pounds. Males are larger than females. Derives its name from a mane of long golden-colored hair on the top of the head, cheeks and throat. Occasionally orange, black, or brown coloration is seen on the tail and forepaws. The species has non-opposable thumbs and the digits are claw-like. Their partially webbed fingers give them a firm hold on tree limbs, and their fingers are almost as long as their forearms. Their extremely long tails are not prehensile but help them balance as they move across vines and jump from branch to branch.
Lifespan	Wild: 10–15 years. Captivity: 24 years
Reproduction	After a gestation period of 125–132 days, twins are usually born; three and four infants are not unheard of. The babies are about a third the body weight of the mother. There are 1–2 litters per year. Birth season is between September and March. Females reach sexual maturity at about 18 months and males at about two years. Most live in reproductive groups that occupy stable territories. Cooperative breeders, all adult members of a group help to carry and feed the offspring of the group's reproductive female. The father is particularly devoted and becomes the primary babysitter, returning the infant to the mother only for nursing, which takes no more than 15 minutes.
Behavior	Diurnal and predominantly arboreal, golden lion tamarins are usually found at heights of 10–30 feet (3–10 meters) above the forest floor, where they inhabit abandoned nest holes. They live in small family groups of 3–8. Group members groom each other to strengthen social bonds and youngsters are very playful. Golden lion tamarins are territorial and rarely stray far from their nest hole. As fruit and nectar eaters, they play a role in pollination, and by eating insects they also control insect populations, as well as their other small prey. Their main predators are snakes, birds of prey, and wild cats.
Our animals	1 female, 1 male (siblings). Born: 03/2006. Birth place: Audubon Zoo, New Orleans
Cool stuff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSP at PPZ. There has been a massive reintroduction effort to conserve golden lion tamarins through a cooperative effort of zoos and naturalists. About 1,500 golden lion tamarins live in the wild, most in or near the Reserva Biologica de Poço das Antas in the state of Rio de Janeiro. About 450 live in zoos worldwide. The protected habitat has been developed in Brazil has become a source of pride to Brazilians and a national symbol of conservation awareness. It is estimated that approximately one-third of the wild population are descendants of captive born and reintroduced individuals. • When rival groups meet, golden lion tamarins engage in ritual scolding and scent marking but rarely fight. • Golden lion tamarins are very vocal: 17 different calls have been documented.

Phylum
ChordataClass
MammaliaOrder
PrimatesFamily
CallithricidaeGenus
Leontopithecusspecies
L. rosalia