



## LEMURS

The lemur is a primate native to the island of Madagascar, a large island off the south east coast of Africa. There are approximately 10 different species of lemur inhabiting the island where the lemurs spend most of their time in the trees.

Lemurs are best known for their large, round reflective eyes and their wailing screams. Lemurs also have furry, pointed ears and long tails, with lemurs often being compared to both monkeys and squirrels.

The lemur will eat most small things from berries, nuts and leaves to insects and spiders this is called an omnivorous diet. Lemurs get most of their food from the surrounding trees but lemurs will occasionally forage for grub on the forest floor if they have no luck in the branches.

The black and white ruffed lemur, the russet mouse lemur, the woolly lemur, the aye aye and the ring tail lemur are among the most common species of lemur found in Madagascar, although the Aye Aye is considered to be a species of lemur very different from the rest, mainly due to the long middle fingers of the aye aye which it uses to get food out of holes. There are four main types of lemur containing nearly 100 different lemur subspecies between them.

The biggest threat to the lemur is deforestation, with around 90% of the Madagascan jungle having been destroyed. This means that the lemur populations are dying, as the lemur has fewer trees to make its home in.

The best predator of Madagascar, the fossa (see photo gallery), is also a big threat to the lemur, as lemurs are one of the favorite meals of a fossa. The lemur has fast reactions and is very agile but the fossa is a stubborn and lightning quick animal, so the lemur generally becomes dinner.

The most commonly known species of lemur is the ring-tailed lemur; this lemur has very distinctive black and white rings on its tail. Lemurs are small-medium sized primates plus a long tail which is often nearly as long as its body. Lemurs also have sharp claws on their feet which enable the lemur to hold onto tree branches, particularly useful when the lemur is trying to escape from a hungry predator!

Lemurs are one of the few animals that live in a matriarchal society, which means that the girl lemurs have more control over the group than the boy lemurs. These lemur groups however, behave in a very similar way to other primates as they feed and groom each other, as well as sleeping close to one another.

### **KINDS OF LEMURS**

Gray Mouse Lemur  
Coquerel's dwarf lemur  
Greater dwarf lemur  
Fat-tailed dwarf lemur  
White-footed Sportive lemur  
Gray mambo lemur  
Ring tailed lemur  
Common brown lemur  
Red-Fronted Lemur  
Sanford's Brown Lemur  
Collared Brown Lemur  
Black Lemur  
Sclater's Black Lemur  
Crowned Lemur  
Mongoose Lemur  
Black and White ruffed lemur  
Red Ruffed Lemur  
Verreaux's Sifaka  
Coquerel's Sifaka  
Golden-Crowned /Tattersall's Sifaka  
Indri

LEMUR PHOTO GALLERY



AVAHI LEMUR



COLLARD BROWN LEMUR



COMMON BROWN LEMUR



CROWNED LEMUR



BLACK AND WHITE RUFFLED LEMUR



BLACK LEMUR



GOLDEN BAMBOO LEMUR



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MONGOOSE LEMUR



MOUSE LEMUR



RED FRONTED BROWN LEMUR



RINGTAILED LEMUR



REDRUFFED LEMUR



SIFAKAS LEMUR



SILKY SIFAKAS LEMUR



SANFORD'S BROWN LEMUR



SCLATER'S BLACK LEMUR



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