



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Giraffe

Giraffes are the tallest land animal in existence. Males reach heights of 5.5 meters (18 ft) and weigh up to 1900kg. At birth, calves are approx 1.8 meters (6ft) tall and weigh approximately 50-55kg. Giraffes have extremely long necks which they use to reach browse high in the trees. Surprisingly, they have only seven vertebrae in their neck - the same as humans, mice and most other mammals! However, the vertebrae in a giraffe's neck are far more elongated.



Giraffe

Habitat

Giraffes are native to Africa and are reasonably widespread. They are found in open woodlands and savannah habitats.

Diet

A very long neck allows giraffes to reach all the leaves that the smaller browsing animals cannot. In fact, the only competition giraffes have for food is the elephant which can use its trunk to reach branches, or simply push the tree over! Giraffes are selective browsers feeding mainly from varieties of Acacia and Combretum plant species. From time to time, they are seen eating vines, herbs or even chewing on bones for extra minerals. They spend a whopping 16-20 hours-per-day browsing. Giraffes have a prehensile tongue which they use like fingers by curling it around the leaves to pluck them easily from the branch. Their tongue is very long—growing up to 40cm in length!

Australia Zoo Giraffe profiles

Rosie

Rosie arrived at Australia Zoo from Monarto Zoo in 2009, joining Penny and Forrest as one of our founder animals. Rosie is a very confident, outgoing giraffe and is often leading the way into new and different situations. Rosie's favourite thing by far is food - she LOVES her food and often seems to inhale things like carrots rather than chewing first!

Rosie has had two beautiful female calves already including Skye, born in 2013 and the first giraffe born here at the zoo. She has since had another female calf, little Scarlet, born in late 2016. Rosie is a natural mum and both offspring appear to have inherited her confident personality

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