

# WILDLIFE OF RIO

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Photos: Mariana Munn

## The Golden Lion Tamarin A Conservation Success

By Charles Munn

The Golden Lion Tamarin is not only one of the most beautiful animals in the world, but an amazing success story in conservation.

In 1970, the global population was down to 200 in the wild. They are only found in the lowland rainforest north of the city of Rio de Janeiro.

Destruction of the forest and illegal capture for the pet trade had reduced them to only 200 animals in the world.

From then until now, an international effort to breed them in zoos around the world and reintroduce them to their native forests near Rio has

brought the wild population up to 2,000. The scarce, remaining patches of lowland rainforest have been protected and are being regrown.

Now you can see this amazing animal in the wild in the forests north of Rio.

Using a helicopter, the entire round trip outing to see these furry gems would take less than three hours from your Rio hotel.

You see the monkeys at 2-4 feet from your camera lens! Very few people in the world know that you can now go see some tame, wild families of this "rock star" of the conservation world.

