



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 is Australia Zoo's friendly mother-of-one to Skye, born in October last year. She's proven to be a loving mum for her little one, and — as Forrest is giving Rosie lots of attention again, we have a feeling it may not be too long before she is pregnant again, which would be extremely exciting for the Australia Zoo family! After arriving from Monarto Zoo in South Australia in 2009, Rosie quickly warmed to keepers and is easily the most confident female giraffe. She loves her food and enjoys interacting with guests during the encounter, where they are of course...feeding her!

Visit us: www.australiazoo.com/our-animals/amazing-animals