



Visiting the Golden Lion Tamarin in the Wild

For people who travel to Rio de Janeiro, and wish to see the Golden Lion Tamarins (GLTs) in the wild, the area where you can see them is on a private farm in the municipality of Silva Jardim, a drive of about two hours from the Rio international airport. A tour, led by members of a conservation team from our Brazilian partner organization, AMLD, will accompany you and help you learn about our conservation program to save this endangered species in its native habitat. There will be ample opportunity to photograph these beautiful tamarins.

A typical full day tour would include an early pickup at your hotel in Rio and transportation to the area for arrival by 9:00 a.m. The journey will take you across the Guanabara Bay toward the town of Silva Jardim. Along the way, you will be able to see first-hand how much of the Atlantic Forest has been cleared and the ongoing expansion of the busy highway from two lanes to four lanes.

During an easy hike on level land, the AMLD staff will demonstrate how GLTs are tracked with radio telemetry equipment, ensuring your tour will have sighting of a number of tamarins in their arboreal habitat. These areas are also good for birdwatching, so be sure to bring your cameras and binoculars.

After viewing the tamarins, you will be transported to AMLD's Education Center where you can view the exhibits and, if you wish, purchase souvenirs featuring GLTs such as t-shirts, caps, and more (all of which support AMLD's GLT conservation program).

After a leisurely lunch of typical Brazilian cuisine at a local farm, you will be driven back to Rio and arrive at your hotel around 5:00 pm.

AMLD works with a local tour company (see contact information below) that will make all logistical arrangements and provide the transportation. They have experience with international travelers and can communicate well in English. For obvious reasons, due to the cost of transportation, the price of the tour will depend upon the size of the group, with an ideal minimum group consisting of five participants. Maximum group size is for 20 people.

Do note, however, while planning your trip to Brazil, in addition to a passport valid for at least six months beyond your date of entry, a tourist visa is required for citizens from many countries. Be sure to check with your nearest Brazilian Consulate for these requirements and allow plenty of time (at least a month or more) to secure a visa should you need one. *However, in light of the Rio 2016 Olympics, American, Australian, Canadian and Japanese nationals going to Brazil exclusively for tourism activities, entering Brazil between June 1st and September 18th, 2016, will be eligible for a 90 day, non-extendable, unilateral visa waiver counted from the first entry within that period. It will not be necessary to have a ticket for an official game to benefit from this waiver.*

To arrange for a tour, contact:

Brazil Ecotravel – <http://www.brazil-ecotravel.com>

Contact: Mikael Castro – specialist for international visitors (fluent in English)

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This company can also help you plan an expanded itinerary to include visits to other parts of Brazil, as well as other attractions close to Rio.