

# White-handed Gibbon (Lar Gibbon)

*Hylobates lar*



**Class:** *Mammalia*

**Order:** *Primates*

**Family:** *Hylobatidae*

**Characteristics:** White-handed gibbons vary greatly in appearance. Their coat colors range from dark gray, black, or brown to very light cream and brown colors. They do not have hair on the face, and the face is surrounded by white fur. The hands and feet are also white. White-handed gibbons do not have tails and they are considered apes. Males and females are similar in size with males weighing slightly more. The body length ranges from 16.5 - 23 inches. Males weigh 11 - 17 pounds and females usually weigh 10 - 15 pounds. ([Encyclopedia of Life](#))

**Behavior:** Lar gibbons move through the trees using [brachiation](#), but also move through the trees and on the ground by walking, hopping, running, climbing, swinging, bridging and leaping. These gibbons spend most of their time in the canopy, and rarely descend to the understory or forest floor. Lar gibbons spend their days feeding, resting, traveling, socializing, and [vocalizing](#). ([Primate Info Net](#)) Lar gibbons live in groups consisting of a mated pair and their offspring. These gibbons are generally considered [monogamous](#), but may occasionally change pairs in a lifetime. ([Arkive](#))

**Reproduction:** Females of this species reach sexual maturity at about 9 years of age. White-handed gibbons can breed year round, but only produce one young every 3-4 years. The gestation period in this gibbon is about 7 months. Females usually give birth to a single young. ([Encyclopedia of Life](#)) The offspring is nursed for about 2 years and will reach adult size around 6 years of age. Most parental care comes from the female, but the male and other group members may help occasionally. ([Arkive](#))

**Diet:** Wild: Mostly fruits, some leafy plants, flowers, and insects. ([Animal Diversity Web](#))

Zoo: Leaf eater biscuits, monkey chow, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and greens.

**Conservation:** According to the [IUCN Redlist](#), Lar gibbons' population has declined by more than 50 percent in the last 45 years. This decline is mostly due to hunting and habitat loss from deforestation. This species is protected in all of the countries in its range and is found mostly in protected areas. Lar gibbons are part of the SSP in zoos around the country.

**FYI:** Lar gibbons will ward off other groups of gibbons with their calls. Each gibbon species has a different "[great call](#)" which is a duet between a mated pair.



## Range & Habitat:

Found in tropical rainforests of southern and Southeast Asia, in the countries of China, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.



**Lifespan:** up to 50 years in captivity, 30 years in the wild.

**Special Adaptations:** Elongated arms, hands, and feet help the gibbons to swing through the trees with ease.

## IUCN Conservation Status:

Endangered

