

Macaques and You

Macaques are highly intelligent and adaptable. They thrive in a variety of habitats including forest edges, mangrove swamps and urban landscapes and have a highly varied diet consisting mainly of fruits and an occasional insect.



Did you know that macaques are very much like humans?



Like us, they are not comfortable if we get too close to them, stare at them, or attempt to touch them. They are also very protective of their young and may get upset and react if humans approach their infants. Although the little ones are adorable, we need to **give them enough space**.

Like humans, the macaques have a range of facial expressions to show their emotions. However, the types of **expressions** they use can be quite different from ours.

When the Long-tailed Macaque displays these expressions, it would be wise to move away and leave the macaque alone before it calls for reinforcements!



A yawning, tired monkey



Note the mouth — they show this 'O' face when they are really angry.



This is not a smile. The monkey is expressing fear.



Raising of the eyebrows is a form of threat - the monkey is not happy with what he is seeing.

Grooming for macaques:



Grooming is an important social event for macaques. If a macaque gets a lot of grooming, it might be a **VIP (very important primate)** in the group.

Did you know that highly ranked macaques get more grooming? This activity reinforces relationships as well as hierarchical status within the group. It is just like how a queen gets plenty of attention from her maids!

Do not feed the macaques:

Feeding the macaques can alter their natural behaviour and encourage them to approach humans for food. Over time, they can also lose their natural ability to forage in the forest where there is plenty of food for them. **Help them go back** to the forest by not feeding them.



Stop Feeding The Monkeys