

Feeding

The monkeys are given food provisions of fruit, vegetables and seed by the Government. They are not hungry, but, like us, prefer sweet, unhealthy treats!



The Ape Management Team carefully spread the food into piles so no one monkey can dominate all the food.

The Macaques get most of their food by foraging, pictured right is a macaque eating carobs.



Digging up Bermuda Buttercup plant roots to eat.

Any other feeding of the monkeys is illegal and carries a fine of £500.

The feeding ban is in place to:

- Prevent the macaques from associating humans with food.
- Minimise any possibility of disease transmission between humans & macaques.
- Promote natural, healthy behaviour.

Monkey Behaviour Signals

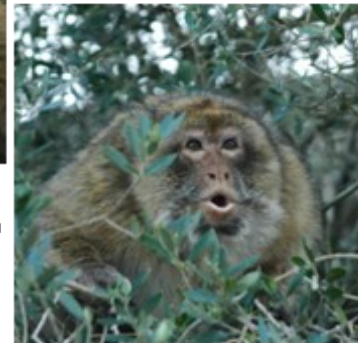
Grooming: *Macaques carefully comb through their hair, looking for lice. Being groomed is the most relaxing way for them to spend the day and a great way to make friends.*



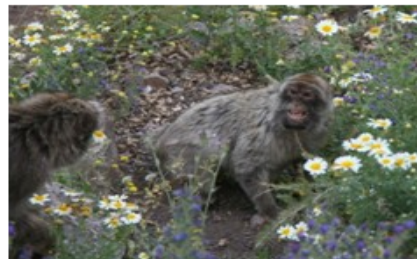
Teeth-Chattering and Lip-Smacking: *Macaques will open and close their mouths very quickly at each other and infants as a sign of friendship.*



Closed Mouth Stare: (left) *This monkey is annoyed about something.*



This is Kim (right) with an 'O'-mouth threat. This means 'Leave me alone!', 'Go away!' or 'Stop that!'



Showing her teeth means she is telling the other macaque to leave her alone or she will bite!

The Barbary Macaques of Gibraltar



Produced by:

Department of the Environment
Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society
Ape Management Team
Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic



How to act around them



Remember monkeys are wild animals. Although they are very tolerant, we recommend that you keep a minimum 1m / 3ft distance at all times



Little ones may jump on you. If this does happen stay calm and don't grab it as this will make it feel threatened. Either wait for it to jump off or gently shake it off. The monkeys may bite, especially if they think an infant is in danger. **Do not try to touch them!**

About Our Monkeys

Where to Find Them

Gibraltar's renowned monkeys can be found in numerous parts of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve. The most notable spots to find the monkeys include the iconic **Apes Den**, **St. Michael's Cave**, the **Cable Car Station** and **Prince Phillip's Arch**. All of these locations are accessible by foot, taxi and coach.

Origins

Some say the monkeys were living in Gibraltar before it became British over 300 years ago.

Ayala (1782) quoting Portillo in 1610, says:

"But now let us speak of other and living producers which in spite of the asperity of the rock still maintain themselves in the mountains. There are Monkeys, who may be called the true owners, with possession from time immemorial, always tenacious of their dominion, living for the most part on the Eastern side in high and inaccessible chasms"

How the Macaques originally came to be in Gibraltar is still not known.

Are they Apes or Monkeys???

Answer below:

Monkeys. But because their tails are very small & difficult to see they have traditionally been called apes.

The Healthiest Macaques

The Gibraltar Macaques are tested on a regular basis for disease and illness by the Gibraltar Veterinary Clinic. They are very clean and healthy; they have no rabies, tuberculosis or other infectious diseases and you are most unlikely to catch anything from these animals. In fact, the monkeys are much more likely to get an infection from human tourists!



Because the monkeys are so healthy, scientists from around the world love to study them. Research on the Gibraltar monkeys continues to take place and is constantly providing important information.