



Hi Example firstname

Welcome to the extraordinary world of the giraffe – the world’s tallest land animal. Interestingly, their Latin name *Giraffa camelopardalis* derives from their Roman name ‘camelopards’. Ancient Romans thought these giant herbivores (plant-eaters) resembled camels with leopards’ spots! Meanwhile the English name ‘giraffe’ is derived from the Italian *giraffa*, from the Arabic word ‘ziraafa’, which means an ‘assemblage of animals’. And you can see why!

I hope you enjoy this long-legged issue of Crew News, but please let us know what you think, by completing our [survey](#) below. We can’t wait to get your feedback!

From




Laura Gosset
Wild Crew



Unique animals

A male giraffe can weigh nearly two tonnes and measure 5.5m high – how tall are you? Their giant size, long legs and neck help them reach free top leaves, and their tough (45cm!) tongue and lips withstand sharp thorns. But a giraffe has just seven neck vertebrae, the same as you – and all other mammals. The bones are just elongated.

[Giraffes](#) might look spindly, but are strong and fast. One kick could shatter the skull of a predatory lion, and they can run at over 30 miles (50km) per hour. Their giant (24lb) heart maintains double the blood pressure of other large mammals, to ensure a good blood supply to the brain.



Are they endangered?

Sadly all four species of giraffes have been steadily declining, with threats ranging from habitat destruction to poaching. Numbers have fallen over 40% in the past 30 years, from around 140,000 to less than 80,000. Born Free has supported a number of conservation initiatives. In 2011, for example, we helped the [Giraffe Conservation Foundation](#) (GCF) reintroduce rare Rothschild’s giraffe to an island in Lake Baringo, Kenya.

In recent years we have also helped GCF conserve the rarest of all giraffes – the West African. By the 1990’s numbers had dropped to just 49 individuals in the West African country Niger. Over the last 20 years an amazing conservation effort has been hugely successful. Today there are more than 600 of these beautiful giraffes – fantastic news!



Wildlife champion

Meet Dr Julian Hennessy, Founder of the [Giraffe Conservation Foundation](#) (GCF). Julian and his wife Stephanie are renowned as the world’s leading giraffe experts. They have dedicated their lives to ensuring the survival of these gentle giants. They know more about giraffes than anyone else!

“It is fantastic to see so many positive changes happening in Niger,” said Julian. “The giraffes here are the last remaining of the West African giraffe but, to our greatest joy, the population is now booming. With around 11% annual increase this is one of the fastest growing wild giraffe populations in Africa. Our thanks to Born Free for helping us. You are supporting both these amazing creatures and the local people who live with them.”

What do you think about Wild Crew?
Take part in our survey here and YOU will receive a free wild gift!
Closing date is 31st October.

[START SURVEY HERE](#)



You can help giraffes this autumn!

Thousands of giraffes are kept in zoos and circuses around the world. Sadly they can suffer badly in captivity. Evolved to live complex lives in the wild, and travel over large distances, they often exhibit abnormal, stereotypic behaviour – repeatedly twisting their neck or licking the bars of their cage. Born Free believes giraffes, like all wild animals, belong in the wild. Please encourage your own family and friends never to visit a [zoo](#) or [animal circus](#).

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