



Press Contact: Julia McHugh  
(805) 569-3303 or juliapr@west.net

## SANTA BARBARA ZOO MAJOR EXHIBITS & ATTRACTIONS

*June 2007*

*The Santa Barbara Zoo is home to 160 species of mammals, reptiles, birds and insects.*

*More than 700 animals are exhibited in open, naturalistic habitats.*

*Following are a few major or noteworthy exhibits; there are many more than listed here.*

*SSP denotes that this species' reproduction is being managed through the AZA's Species Survival Plan.*

### **NEW: Crawford Family Penguin House**

The Zoo's newest exhibit features warm-climate Humboldt penguins, a species that is threatened in its native habit along the Pacific Coast of South American from Peru to Chile. The aquatic birds have taken up residence in the former California sea lion exhibit, which received a modest facelift including several small nooks, penguin-friendly pond access, and new concrete rockwork. The resulting exhibit, sponsored by the Crawford Family, offers both above-ground and underwater viewing of these active birds in the 5,670 cubic foot pond. A total of 14 birds are in the exhibit, six males and eight females, ranging in age from three to 23 years old.

### **South American Region**

Inca terns, dramatically colored birds are on view in a new exhibit adjacent to the Humboldt penguins, as this species is native to the same region off the coast from the coasts of Peru and Chile. These slender, slate-colored birds sport dramatic coloration on the head: crimson bill with a whisker-like white plume and bright yellow "gape wattle" under each eye.

A newly renovated exhibit houses a breeding (SSP) pair of Toco toucans who share their home with four small black South American monkeys – Goeldi's monkeys. This exhibit shows how species can share a habitat: the birds in the treetops and the monkeys below.

### **Cats of Africa (SSP, Breeding)**

Two African lion cubs have been born in this new exhibit, which opened in March 2003 and was designed to accommodate lions in groupings similar to those in the wild, meaning a male and a few females with their offspring. The exhibit is able to house up to six lions and there are currently five animals rotating on exhibit: breeding pair Gingerbread and Chadwick, their second offspring Docha, and the Zoo's senior citizen lioness Kali. Also on view: a pair of highly endangered Black-footed cats. It is hoped that this pair will also breed.

### **Snow Leopard (Endangered, SSP, Breeding)**

Zoo guests are seeing spots – two new highly endangered, strikingly beautiful snow leopards at this Zoo exhibit opened in March 2005. The 13-year old female, Nepamar, came from the Louisville Zoo in Kentucky and the six-year old male, named Beauregard, from Lake Superior Zoo in Duluth, Minnesota. There may be little spots in the future as they are a Species Survival Plan breeding pair. Found above the tree line in central Asia's dry mountainous country, snow leopards are prized as hunter's trophies and destroyed as predators of domestic flocks. There are

estimated to be only 3,500 to 7,000 of these elusive creatures in the wild and 281 are currently in captivity distributed among 75 accredited zoos.

### The Forest's Edge -- Western Lowland Gorilla (Endangered, SSP, Non-breeding)

When The Forest's Edge opened in June 1996, thousands of people lined up to catch a glimpse of its first resident, Max. Shy Max never did venture far outside his indoor space, but none the less captured the hearts of local residents. He passed away in October 2003. His companions, two young siblings Goma and Kivu who joined Max in 1997, have since grown into silver-backed adults and live in an all-male "bachelor troop." The AZA will make recommendations as to whether additional male gorillas will be added to this exhibit.

### EEEEWW! Hair Raising Helpers from Around the World

Eeeww! That is the first reaction many people have to the slithery or creepy crawlies we share our world with. They might call them "gross," "scary" or "yucky." These animals may be hair-raising, but they are also big helpers – as bugs, lizards, spiders, snakes all play a part in making human lives better. This exhibit features creatures from Latin America, the American Southwest, Africa and Southeast Asia such as Madagascar hissing cockroaches (push a button to hear their sound), both red knee and pink toe tarantulas, rosy boa, desert hairy and emperor scorpions, Puerto Rican crested toad, tiger salamanders, giant millipede, African fat-tailed and day geckos, Vietnamese walking stick, and Chief, the exhibit's Burmese rock python (nearly 11 feet long – and getting bigger), among many other species.

### Channel Island Fox (Threatened, Breeding)

Exotic animals aren't the only ones threatened. The Channel Island foxes make their homes just 18 miles off our coast... and now at the Santa Barbara Zoo, where they have successfully bred in captivity. The Zoo has taken a lead in managing the Channel Island foxes' Species Survival Plan, and their exhibit is slated for renovation in the near future. In the wild, the foxes face unique challenges to their survival, including predation by golden eagles, habitat destruction by feral pigs, and canine distemper. Four of the six island fox subspecies have declined by as much as 95% since 1994 and are endangered. The Zoo's foxes come from San Clemente Island and are considered threatened by the US. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### California Nature Walk

A wooden walkway connects the Channel Island fox exhibit to another California species, bald eagles, and to the soon-to-be-opened California condor exhibit (see below). It offers stunning views of the Andree Clark Bird Refuge, Santa Ynez mountains and city of Santa Barbara.

### African Veldt – Giraffe Feeding

Covering over an acre, the African Veldt exhibit is visible from the Cabrillo bike path and waterfront. A large barn was especially designed for its tall residents – four Baringo giraffes – and keepers feed the animals in elevated troughs from the second floor of the building. Especially popular is giraffe Gemina, who has become famous for her crooked neck. Her condition has not interfered with her ability to give birth, eat normally or interact with the herd, and she continues to thrive in her Veldt environment. Guests can feed these magnificent creatures from a newly constructed deck on weekends and seasonally during the week. Also on view in this space are East African crowned cranes and African spurred tortoises. Slender tailed meerkats are nearby.

### Elephant Walk (Endangered, SSP, Non-breeding)

Attractions don't come any bigger than the two female Asian elephants who have resided here since summer 1972. When Sujatha and Little Mac arrived, they stood four feet tall – but as the girls grew, so did their need for space. The height of the barn has been raised twice as the elephants grew to maturity. A renovation completed in 2005 extended the yard, enlarged the pool, brought the surrounding pathways into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and developed a beautiful Asian botanical setting. An “enrichment wall” provides the animals with a variety of stimulating activities; animal care staff can hide food in various cubbyholes. A new dynamic exhibit of Asian pond turtles has been built adjacent to the elephant exhibit; visitors cross a bridge between the two new exhibits.

### Gibbon Island (Endangered, SSP, Non-breeding)

Santa Barbara Zoo's white-handed gibbons welcomed the newest member with the birth of a baby in October 2002, and a renovated exhibit now houses the family of four. They are particularly active on their island home and their distinctive “whooping” call can often be heard throughout the Zoo.

### Chilean Flamingo (Breeding)

The Santa Barbara Zoo has recently been successful in hatching of Chilean flamingos chicks. Several of the grey offspring from last season are visible in the exhibit, which is located across from the lemurs at the Flamingo Pool.

### Lemurs (Endangered, SSP, Breeding)

The Santa Barbara Zoo's symbol for the past 20 years was the black and white ruffed lemur, one of 22 species of lemurs which are all endangered due to habitat destruction in their native island of Madagascar. This species was the first AZA Species Survival Plan species to breed at the Zoo, and there are now 16 SSP species here. This pair has breed for the last two seasons, making a total of six in the exhibit. Also on view, several active ring-tailed lemurs, also endangered and also part of the SSP breeding program.

### Amur Leopard (Endangered, SSP, Non-breeding)

A father-daughter pair of Amur leopards is on view in this area. It is believed that there are less than 35 left in the wild, as they are being hunted for to extinction for their fur. Efforts are underway to request that the proposed Siberia-Pacific Pipeline be re-routed to avoid the animals' only habitat in the wilderness of the largely undeveloped Russian Far East region of Primorye.

### Giant Anteater (Breeding)

Santa Barbara has had its share of famous animals, but is best known within the Zoo community for its successful breeding program with giant anteaters. These animals have not reproduced successfully in many other zoos, but they seem to like Santa Barbara. When “Grandma,” who had produced several offspring, passed away at age 35 in 2001, she had lived longer than any other known anteater. Her passing was eulogized nationally on ESPN during a University of California at Irvine basketball game. (Their University mascot? The anteater.) Today, the breeding program continues with a renovated exhibit and a new pair of giant anteaters. In September 2004 a young male, name Mochila (“backpack” in Spanish), was born. A female, named Nozzie, was born in May 2006.

### Aviaries\*

The **Tropical Aviary** features tropical birds from Africa and South America. There are wading birds such as scarlet ibis and white faced whistling ducks, and perching birds including glossy starlings, and gray tanager. There is also a green-cheeked Amazon parrot, free flying macaws and alligator snapping turtles.

The new **Wings of Asia** exhibit boasts two waterfalls, a pond and wooden guest walkways offering viewing of ten varieties of colorful and rare Asiatic birds. The exhibit's enhanced slope now allows visitors to view the birds from various perspectives – in tree tops, perching on bushes, swimming in the pond, preening alongside waterfalls, and feeding on the ground.

**Lorikeet Landing** offers a close up encounter with some of the world's most brightly-colored and "talkative" birds. Lories and lorikeets dine primarily on pollen, nectar, and fruit, and have specially adapted tongues and digestive systems in order to process this sweet diet. Zoo guests often have a unique opportunity to view the birds up close – nectar is often available for sale at the exhibit so visitors can have a "close encounter" with these very sociable birds.

*\* The Santa Barbara Zoo has immunized its bird population against West Nile Virus, a disease that is making its way west across the country. The immunization will not prevent the birds from contracting the virus, but has proved to greatly cut down on avian fatalities related to the virus.*

### Coming Soon: California Condors (Endangered, SSP, Non-breeding)

As early as 1986, the Zoo's staff veterinarian was involved with the California condor recovery effort led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and in 1987 Zoo staff was part of the team that rescued the last bird in the wild. Years of research, care and breeding have now made it possible for these birds to again soar in their native habitats – including the Santa Ynez Mountains, which can be seen in a spectacular panorama from the site of a new Condor exhibit at the Santa Barbara Zoo. The Zoo will become one of only two zoo facilities where the public can view these spectacular birds when this exhibit is opened in the future.

## **OTHER ATTRACTIONS:**

### Entry Complex and Courtyard

The Zoo's admissions building was opened in 1991 and was modeled on the old Hollister Road gas station featured in the movie "The Postman Always Rings Twice." Upon entering the Zoo, visitors cross the swan lake bridge by a waterfall and enter what appears to be a Central American or Mexican village courtyard, filled with pink-toned buildings. A recently renovated pond featuring local plants and grasses is in the center of the courtyard, surrounded by the restaurant, gift store and administrative buildings.

### Zoo Train

Climb on board one of two C.P. Huntington narrow gauge trains for an interpretive ride that travels through lush foliage along the 1 1/3 mile track. See Toco toucans, white-handed gibbons, Barango giraffes, and more. Cross the bridge that spans the Andree Clark Bird Refuge and go through the tunnel before getting back to the station. The ride is approximately 10 minutes long, with a train leaving every 10-15 minutes daily in the summer and weekends and every 30-60

minutes during the winter weekdays. One train is handicap accessible. *Cost: Children 2-12 are \$1.50, adults are \$2.*

### Carousel

William Dentzel, a local resident and descendant of the famous German carousel maker, donated this custom carousel to the Santa Barbara Zoo in the 1970s. The enclosed carousel features eight colorful animals sized for the Zoo's smallest visitors. Renovated in 1986, youngsters are today still riding the hand-carved sea serpents, unicorn, horse, pig, frog, rabbit, and fish. Carousel hours: 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily during summer and 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekends during winter. *The carousel is for children only (48 inch height limit). Cost: \$.75.*

### Elephant Junction

*Elephant Junction* is a new focal point of the upper section of the Zoo; this round patio is the center of several pathways leading to other areas. The elephant overlook has been expanded, offering panoramic views of the new elephant area, especially the elephant pool. Lush new landscaping has been installed throughout the area.

### Hilltop

The land on which the Zoo is situated was formerly an estate owned by Lillian and John Child. Botanical specimens from the original gardens and remnants of the old steps and pathways of the estate are still evident, particularly at the Zoo's highest point, the Hilltop. This large grassy area is perfect for picnicking and enjoying the sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands, and Santa Ynez mountain range.

### Barnyard, Playground and Kids' Marketplace

Here guests can enjoy an up-up encounter by feeding sheep. A new playground was installed with modern play equipment and a handicap-accessible surface in 1994. When Jane Goodall visited the Zoo in 2002, a mural celebrating the tree of life was painted by local children on playground's back wall. At the Bryant & Sons Kids' Marketplace unique souvenirs are on sale, along with food for the barnyard animals. All purchases support the Zoo and promote wildlife and environmental awareness. It is named for local jeweler and Zoo supporter Bob Bryant.

### Ridley Tree House Restaurant

On sale are delicious grilled items, sandwiches, salads, and other tasty delights. Relax in the garden courtyard and enjoy a meal, snack, soft drink or dessert. Daily specials available. It is named for longtime supporters Lord and Lady Paul and Leslie Ridley-Tree, who funded the restaurant plus the building across the courtyard that houses the gift shop and executive offices.

### Zoo Gift Shop

The Santa Barbara Zoo Gift Shop has a wide variety of unique items which help make a zoo visit more memorable. Everything from African artifacts, T-shirts, and figurines to posters, books and a great selection of animal toys are available. All sales directly benefit the Zoo. Stroller, wagon, and wheelchair rentals are also available. *Select Gift Shop items now available online at [www.sbzoo.org](http://www.sbzoo.org).*

###