



Zoo Atlanta Press Kit

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Zoo Atlanta Fact Sheet

- LOCATION:** 800 Cherokee Avenue, S.E., Atlanta, GA 30315
Zoo Atlanta is located in historic Grant Park, just minutes from Turner Field and downtown Atlanta.
- BASIC FACTS:** Zoo Atlanta maintains a collection of around 1,300 animals, representing more than 200 species from around the world. Spanning almost 40 acres of lush landscapes and inviting botanicals, the Zoo is a leader in building naturalistic habitats for wildlife.
- MANAGEMENT:** Zoo Atlanta is a private, nonprofit corporation operated by Atlanta-Fulton County Zoo, Inc., and is managed by a board of directors and Zoo Atlanta's President and CEO, Raymond B. King.
- HOURS:** The Zoo is open year round except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.
Daily: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with grounds open until 5:30 p.m.
Daylight-savings time weekends only: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with grounds open until 6:30 p.m.
- ADMISSION:** **Online general admission:** \$22.99 for adults; \$16.99 for children 3 to 11; \$18.99 for seniors 65 and older. Free for Zoo Members and children under 3.
Front gate general admission: \$25.99 for adults; \$17.99 for children 3 to 11; \$21.99 for seniors 65 and older. Free for Zoo Members and children under 3.
Groups of 10 or more may receive discounted group rates by making reservations in advance. Call 404.624.WILD to inquire about group rates.
- ACCREDITATION:** Zoo Atlanta is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

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Zoo Atlanta Overview

Zoo Atlanta is Atlanta's oldest cultural institution and one of Georgia's most beloved family destinations. Founded in 1889, the Zoo is one of the 10 oldest zoos in continuous operation in the U.S. Average annual attendance typically exceeds 900,000, and Membership tops 35,000 households.



Known for its leadership in the movement to provide naturalistic habitats for animals, Zoo Atlanta began a multi-million dollar redevelopment campaign in 1985. The Zoo environment is designed to give guests a tour of exotic destinations around the globe without ever leaving Atlanta. A leader in formal and informal education, the Zoo is also a dynamic learning environment for students of all ages.

Exhibit Highlights (in alphabetical order)

African Plains and Mzima Springs

Home to lions, giraffe, black rhinos, zebras, lesser kudus, meerkats and warthogs, this five-acre landscape simulates the African savanna. Jabari, the first rhino calf ever born in Zoo Atlanta history, was born in August 2013. The series of habitats also features grassland birds, including ostrich and kori bustards. African forest species include critically endangered eastern bongos. The Zoo's three African lions, Hondo, Hatari and Azizi, are brothers and were born in 2013.

Mzima Springs houses two African elephants, Tara and Kelly. Included is a large deep pond the elephants use for bathing and a separate yard for daily demonstrations highlighting their unique features and personalities and emphasizing conservation.



The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation Giant Panda Conservation Center

Zoo Atlanta is one of only four zoos in the U.S. housing giant pandas. With only an estimated 1,600 giant pandas believed to remain in the wild, the Zoo is committed to behavioral research contributing to a self-sustaining, genetically diverse captive population.

Lun Lun (female) and Yang Yang (male) arrived in 1999 on loan from China. As part of the research agreement on the pair's original 10-year loan, Zoo Atlanta committed to more than \$10 million toward giant panda conservation projects in China. Zoo Atlanta giant pandas have been the subjects of important studies conducted by research partners from Zoo Atlanta, the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding and the Chengdu Zoo.

Three of the pair's offspring – male Mei Lan, born in 2006; male Xi Lan, born in 2008; and female Po, born November 3, 2010 – were the only giant pandas born in the U.S. in their birth years. Lun Lun's youngest cubs, females Mei Lun and Mei Huan, were born July 15, 2013, and are the only twin giant pandas in the U.S. Mei Lan, Xi Lan and Po now reside at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

The Asian Forest

The Asian Forest houses the nation's largest zoological collection of orangutans, featuring both Bornean and Sumatran orangutans in three outdoor habitats. Although orangutans are solitary in the wild, the Zoo's collection lives in small social groups. Seven Sumatran orangutans and three Bornean orangutans have been born at Zoo Atlanta over the past 30 years.

Additional highlights include giant otters, red panda and Komodo dragon.

Boundless Budgies: A Parakeet Adventure

Boundless Budgies: A Parakeet Adventure, opened in 2009, invites guests to feed hundreds of birds in a dynamic world of wings. Native to Australia and often seen in flocks of thousands, parakeets are highly social, curious and colorful. The interactive experience is the largest of its kind in the Southeast.



Complex Carnivores

Opened in April 2011, this series of habitats introduces guests to the diversity of the world's carnivores. Highlights are bush dogs, binturong, fossa and a plant bog presenting carnivorous flora.

Conservation Action Resource Center (ARC)

The Conservation Action Resource Center (ARC) is an extraordinary facility featuring a thriving living roof of native flora. State-of-the-art facilities, including the Coca-Cola World Studio, are available for rental.

Flamingo Plaza

A thriving flock of Chilean flamingos greets guests as they enter Flamingo Plaza. The flamingos' pink color comes from carotene, the same substance that gives color to shrimp, marigolds and carrots. Flamingos are white when they hatch, grey as juveniles, and pink as adults.

The Ford African Rain Forest

The Ford African Rain Forest houses the nation's largest collection of gorillas, with 20 individuals. The gorillas live in distinct social groups over a 1.5-acre series of habitats, a lush natural environment that promotes behaviors similar to those observed in the wild. Twenty-two gorillas have been born at Zoo Atlanta since the opening of The Ford African Rain Forest in 1988. Among these are a rare set of twins, Kali and Kazi, born to Kuchi on October 31, 2005. Kuchi gave birth to her fifth infant, Henry, on May 22, 2010. Five other Ford African Rain Forest youngsters, Macy Baby (born to Kudzoo in 2005); Gunther (born to Sukari in 2006); Merry Leigh (born to Kudzoo in 2011); Andi (born to Lulu in 2013); and Anaka (born to Sukari in 2013), are the grandchildren of the legendary late Willie B. (ca. 1959-2000).

Also located in The Ford African Rain Forest is The Living Treehouse, a dynamic treetop environment bringing to life the importance of trees to wildlife survival. The Living Treehouse is home to a colorful diversity of bird life in an open-air aviary, as well as Schmidt's guenons, Wolf's guenons, Angolan colobus monkeys, lemurs and critically endangered drills. The drill colony at Zoo Atlanta is the only successful breeding group of drills in the nation.



Naked mole rats

Guests get an intimate view of nature's weirdest underground family at work in a series of underground tunnels. Naked mole rats are one of only two known eusocial mammal species, living in large colonies devoted to the service of a queen.

Orkin Children's Zoo and Outback Station

The Orkin Children's Zoo was made possible by a \$1.3 million gift from The Gary W. & Ruth M. Rollins Foundation. Phase One, which opened in 2002, carries a South American theme and is home to golden lion tamarins. Other features include Base Camp Discovery, three climate-controlled cabins that allow guests to enjoy an educational overnight experience among animals from around the world.

The second phase of the Orkin Children's Zoo, Outback Station, opened in 2004 and introduced red kangaroos. Other examples of Australian wildlife include Major Mitchell's cockatoos, kookaburra and cassowary. One of the world's largest bird species, the cassowary is roughly the size of an emu.

A spacious petting zoo enables close interactions with pigs, sheep, goats in a fun, friendly environment themed to resemble an Australian sheep station. Designed with kids in mind, the petting zoo is an excellent introduction to wildlife for urban visitors.

Scaly Slimy Spectacular: The Amphibian and Reptile Experience

Opened in April 2015, Scaly Slimy Spectacular is the world's first LEED Gold-certified reptile and amphibian exhibit. Home to around 100 animals representing more than 70 species, the complex features 60,000 gallons of water; a 35-foot naturalistic waterfall feeding into an indoor alligator lagoon; and more than 9,700 square feet of hand-crafted rockwork designed to replicate some of the most iconic wild places on Earth.

Trader's Alley: Wildlife's Fading Footprints

Opened in June 2010, this thought-provoking pathway introduces guests to the global problem of the wildlife trade against the backdrop of a recreated Asian market, with breathtaking views of many of the species affected by the trade. Highlights include sun bears, Sumatran tigers, clouded leopard and wreathed hornbills.

The Zoo is home to an adult pair of Sumatran tigers, Chelsea and Kavi. Sohni and Sanjiv, born to Chelsea on July 5, 2011, were the first tigers born at Zoo Atlanta in more than a decade.



Zoo Atlanta's President and CEO



Raymond B. King was named President and CEO of Zoo Atlanta in June 2010. Under his leadership, the Zoo's annual attendance has grown from 675,000 in 2010 to more than 920,000 in 2015, a more than 33-percent increase over a five-year period. King was voted Atlanta's Most Admired Nonprofit CEO by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in 2014 and 2015.

King's tenure includes two of the most transformative improvements in Zoo Atlanta's 126-year history, most recently the Zoo's recognition as the new steward of the Cyclorama building and its adjacent surrounding property. The resulting campaign, titled "A Grand New View for Zoo Atlanta: Elephants, Events and Expansion," will create a state-of-the-art event space overlooking an African savanna; a grand entry plaza; and

a significant expansion of the Zoo's African elephant habitat. In 2013, King led Zoo Atlanta in successfully completing the \$22 million capital campaign that supported the construction of Scaly Slimy Spectacular: The Amphibian and Reptile Experience, which opened in April 2015.

Prior to Zoo Atlanta, King enjoyed a 22-year career with SunTrust Banks, Inc., most recently as Senior Vice President for Community Affairs in Atlanta. He has a significant record of leadership in the nonprofit community, having chaired six nonprofit boards. He currently serves on the Executive Committees of the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, Buckhead Coalition and Central Atlanta Progress and on the boards of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta Girls School, Scheller College of Business at Georgia Institute of Technology, and Hire Dynamics.

A native Atlantan and a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, King is married to Robin Lord King, and they have a daughter, Courtney.

More detailed biographical information is available upon request.



Species Survival Plan Participation

Zoo Atlanta is a participant in the AZA Species Survival Plan (SSP), comprising collective management programs for breeding captive populations of endangered animals. Each individual SSP program manages the breeding of a species in order to maintain a healthy and self-sustaining captive population that is both genetically diverse and demographically stable. SSPs also incorporate a variety of other cooperative conservation activities, such as research, public education, and reintroduction and field projects. More than 100 SSPs are currently administered by AZA, whose members include accredited zoos and aquariums throughout North America.

Zoo Atlanta currently participates in more than 20 SSP programs, including the following:

African lion	Komodo dragon
Baboon	Kori bustard
Bali mynah	Orangutan
Black-and-white colobus	Radiated tortoise
Black rhino	Red panda
Burmese star tortoise	Ringtailed lemur
Clouded leopard	Tiger
Eastern bongo	
Elephant	
Giant panda	
Golden lion tamarin	
Gorilla	
Guenon	

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Points of Pride

- Founded in 1889, Zoo Atlanta is the oldest cultural destination in Atlanta and is one of the 10 oldest zoos still in continuous operation in the U.S.
- Zoo Atlanta is one of only four zoos in the U.S. housing giant pandas. Five cubs have been born at the Zoo, most recently Mei Lun and Mei Huan (born 2013), the only twin giant pandas in the U.S.
- Zoo Atlanta President and CEO Raymond B. King was voted “Atlanta’s Most Admired Nonprofit CEO” by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in 2014 and 2015.
- Zoo Atlanta received the AZA Quarter Century Award in 2016, in recognition of having maintained the rigorous accreditation standards of AZA for 25 years or more.
- Scaly Slimy Spectacular is the world’s first LEED Gold-certified reptile and amphibian exhibit. In 2015, the complex also won “Top Project in Commercial Construction under \$30 Million” from the Construction Management Association of America. Other honors included the Best Project Award in the Cultural/Worship category from ENR Southeast.
- Giant pandas are the Zoo’s most significant conservation investment. In 2012, Zoo Atlanta received the prestigious International Conservation Award from AZA in recognition of the long-term achievements of its giant panda program.
- Zoo Atlanta is home to the nation’s largest zoological collection of great apes. The Great Ape Heart Project is headquartered at Zoo Atlanta. In 2015, the project earned its second National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – the third show of federal support for the world’s first collaborative effort to understand, diagnose, and treat cardiovascular disease in great apes living in zoological settings.
- In 2011, Zoo Atlanta received the AZA Edward H. Bean Award for Significant Achievement in honor of the long-term commitment of its gorilla program.
- Zoo Atlanta’s herpetology collection is one of the foremost in the country. The Zoo is home to one of the world’s only zoological collections of Guatemalan beaded lizards, a rare species believed to number fewer than 200 in the wild, and has been successful in reproducing these lizards.
- Zoo Atlanta has been recognized among its peers for a commitment to field conservation programs. In recent years, Zoo Atlanta has numbered among only a small fraction of AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums to meet or exceed AZA’s goal to encourage member organizations to contribute 3 percent or more of their annual operating budgets to field conservation programs.

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