



Zoo Atlanta Press Kit

updated October 2026

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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 downtown Atlanta.
MISSION:	<i>We save wildlife and their habitats through conservation, research, education, and engaging experiences. Our efforts connect people to animals and inspire conservation action.</i>
VISION:	<i>We envision a world where wildlife and humans flourish together.</i>
BASIC FACTS:	Zoo Atlanta is home to hundreds of animals representing more than 200 species from around the world. Spanning 40 acres of lush landscapes and inviting botanicals, the Zoo is an inspiring urban oasis. The Zoo is open year-round with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Ticket prices vary based on entry date; group rates are available for groups of 15 or more. Tickets and information at zooatlanta.org.
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.
ACCREDITATION:	Zoo Atlanta is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).
DIGITAL ASSETS:	Photo and video assets are available for download in the Press Room at zooatlanta.org: https://zooatlanta.org/pressroom/photo-and-video-assets/

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.

Known for its leadership in the movement to provide naturalistic habitats for animals, Zoo Atlanta began a multimillion-dollar redevelopment campaign in 1985. Since 2015, the Zoo has operated in a continual state of transformation, with cutting-edge, redesigned animal habitats and experiences designed to promote both exceptional animal wellbeing and an immersive guest experience. A leader in formal and informal education, Zoo Atlanta is also a dynamic learning environment for students of all ages.



Highlights (in alphabetical order)

African Savanna

Opened in 2019, the African Savanna is an expansive transformed space that invites guests into one of the world's most iconic wild environments. The African elephant landscape, which is connected to the state-of-the-art indoor Zambezi Elephant Center, features two large outdoor habitats designed with elephant wellbeing in mind. Elements include a pond, two waterfalls, and swing boom enrichment devices that encourage the elephants to forage using their trunks, as they would in the wild. Zoo Atlanta is home to four African elephants: females Kelly and Tara and males Msholo and Titan.

A mixed-species environment is home to giraffes, zebras, and ostriches, as well as habitats for warthogs, meerkats, kori bustards, and blue cranes.

The Rhino Delta Air Lines Habitat was redesigned for southern white rhinos in 2023. A \$3 million renovation of the African lion complex opened in 2025 and includes multiple elements for lion wellbeing, as well as three separate viewing areas including an expansive observation deck.

Asian Forest

The Asian Forest houses the nation's largest zoological populations 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.



Complex Carnivores and Corridor to Change

Corridor to Change introduces guests to the global challenge of wildlife trafficking, with interactive interpretive experiences provoking thought and inspiring personal action. Animal habitats include homes for Malayan sun bears and wrinkled hornbills.

At the base of Corridor to Change is Complex Carnivores, which includes habitats for critically endangered Sumatran tigers, clouded leopard, and binturongs.

Flamingo Plaza

A thriving flock of Chilean flamingos, one of the most successful populations of this species in zoological care in North America, greets guests as they enter Flamingo Plaza.



The Ford African Rain Forest

Home to one of the largest populations of gorillas in North America, The Ford African Rain Forest is a lush natural environment housing gorillas living in four distinct social groups. Twenty-six gorillas have been born at Zoo Atlanta since the opening of The Ford African Rain Forest, including four children and several grandchildren of the legendary late Willie B. (ca. 1959-2000).

Zoo Atlanta is a global leader in the care and study of gorillas, and the Zoo has become a recognized center of expertise in the care of gorillas at a variety of life stages. Research by Zoo Atlanta scientists and partners has influenced the world's body of knowledge of gorillas, with more than 100 published papers on maternal care, reproduction, social behavior, and cognition.

Also located in The Ford African Rain Forest is The Living Treehouse, a 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, Angolan colobus monkeys, and lemurs. This area also houses the only zoological population of drill monkeys in North America.

Giant pandas

Zoo Atlanta became one of only three zoos in the U.S. housing giant pandas in fall 2026 with the arrival of Ping Ping and Fu Shuang on September 27, 2026. *The pandas are not yet visible; their new home in Atlanta, Arthur M. Blank Panda Grove, opens November 6, 2026.*

Ping Ping and Fu Shuang are in Atlanta through a new International Cooperative Research Agreement on Giant Panda Conservation, initiated between Zoo Atlanta and the China Wildlife Conservation Association.



Zoo Atlanta's original giant panda agreement with China, initiated in 1999, expired in 2024, the year which also marked the 25th anniversary of the Zoo's giant panda program. In October 2024, original pair Lun Lun and Yang Yang and their two youngest offspring, Ya Lun and Xi Lun, departed Atlanta for China. All now reside at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, as do Lun Lun's and Yang Yang's five previous offspring.

KIDZone

KIDZone hosts a variety of opportunities for both the young and young at heart. Rides include the Endangered Species Carousel and the Safari Express Aboard the Norfolk Southern Zoo Train, reimagined in 2025 to highlight new connections to wildlife; the Safari Express runs on an electric engine for an eco-friendly ride. The Splash Fountain water play area (open April through October) is a popular option for children. Adventurers can enjoy aerial playgrounds on Treetop Trail and Treetop Tykes Trail presented by Kaiser Permanente. In Flamingo Plaza near the top of the path into KIDZone is the Wild Explorer VR Theater, where guests can experience some of Earth's most thrilling wild places without leaving the Zoo.

Petting zoo

A spacious petting zoo enables close interactions with a variety of goat and sheep breeds in a fun, friendly environment. Designed with kids in mind, the petting zoo is an excellent introduction to wildlife for children. Housed nearby are Huacaya alpacas and Kunekune pigs.

Savanna Hall

Originally built in 1921 and revitalized by Zoo Atlanta as a special event destination opened in 2020, Savanna Hall was the home of the Atlanta Cyclorama for more than 90 years. Famous citywide for its grand scale and neoclassical architecture, the building retains many notes of its past, including its historic façade; original interior terra cotta brick walls; and restored original light fixtures on the Delta Savanna Terrace.

Featuring more than 25,000 square feet of event spaces, including the grand Michael & Thalia Carlos Ballroom overlooking the Zoo's African Savanna, the venue is suited for a wide variety of social and corporate occasions.



The Rollins Animal Health Center

Completed in 2024, The Rollins Animal Health Center redefines standards of excellence in zoological animal medicine, scientific research, and academic partnerships. The \$21 million, 17,000 square-foot complex includes dedicated laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, treatment, and surgical suites; a CT scanner; a necropsy suite; interior and exterior animal dens and a food preparation kitchen; and animal quarantine dens. A second floor features two bedrooms, restrooms and laboratory working space equipped to provide housing for veterinary interns and visiting scientists. While it is not located on public Zoo pathways, The Rollins Animal Health Center is available for tours.

Scaly Slimy Spectacular: The Amphibian and Reptile Experience

Opened in 2015, Scaly Slimy Spectacular is the world's first LEED Gold-certified reptile and amphibian complex. Home to scores of animals, the indoor space features 60,000 gallons of water; a 35-foot naturalistic waterfall feeding into a Siamese crocodile habitat; and more than 9,700 square feet of hand-crafted rockwork designed to replicate some of the most iconic wild places on Earth.



... and more

Presentations at the World of Wild Theater presented by Georgia Natural Gas and Amy's Tree Theater, animal training demonstrations, and Keeper Talks are included with general admission. Giraffe Feeding runs seasonally, early spring through late fall (additional purchase required). Behind-the-scenes Wild Encounters invite guests to meet some of their favorite animals and learn more about their care and conservation (additional purchase required; some programs run seasonally). Safari Camps, NightCrawler Overnights, school and family programs, and a host of other education programs run at times throughout the year. Zoo Atlanta hosts special events for all ages year-round, from events for the entire family to evening events for ages 21 and up.

Conservation

Signature Conservation Partners

Zoo Atlanta's Signature Conservation Partners are the **Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding**, the Zoo's longtime partner for the preservation, care, and study of giant pandas; **Conservation South Luangwa**, based in Zambia and working to protect African elephants and other species from illegal wildlife trafficking; the **Golden Lion Tamarin Association**, based in Brazil and protecting an icon of the Atlantic Coastal Forest; and the **Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund**, working to save gorillas in Rwanda and DR Congo. The Fossey Fund has had its U.S. headquarters at Zoo Atlanta since 1995.



The Mabel Dorn Reeder Conservation Endowment Fund

The Mabel Dorn Reeder Conservation Endowment Fund annually awards grants to projects that enable Zoo Atlanta to amplify its conservation impact. Projects are proposed by Zoo team members and are selected based on relevance to Zoo Atlanta's mission; conservation status and needs of the species in question; conservation significance; and inclusion of education and community outreach.

Partnerships for Georgia native species

In addition to contributing to a global impact for species on multiple continents, Zoo Atlanta is active in programs and partnerships for native species. These include eastern indigo snakes, diamondback terrapins, eastern box turtles, and native plants, as well as efforts to restore the critically endangered mountain bog ecosystem.

Visitor impact

25 cents of every general admission ticket purchased goes to Zoo Atlanta's Conservation Fund. A portion of all Wild Encounter programs reservations benefits conservation organizations.