



Zoo Attractions

African Elephant Crossing

African elephants make their triumphant return to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo after a two-year hiatus. The Zoo's newest attraction opens May 5 and features five acres dedicated to elephants, and several species making their first appearance at the Zoo including meerkats, naked mole rats, a rock python and 10 different types of African birds.

Visitors will be able to experience elephants like never before with nose-to-trunk viewing, an interactive visitor center and the chance to cross the exhibit on the same path the elephants use.

The RainForest

Explore the jungles of Asia, Africa and the Americas inside The RainForest, which showcases more than 10,000 plants and 600 animals in naturalistic settings. This unique, two-acre, two-story exhibit brings you an extraordinary look at endangered species from threatened habitats.

The RainForest is home to a troop of Bornean orangutans, endangered ocelots from Brazil, free-flying birds, Asian small-clawed otters, straw-colored bats, two-toed sloths and a host of reptiles and amphibians. The RainForest features a 25-foot waterfall, a simulated tropical rainstorm every 12 minutes and a research hut with interactive exhibits.

Australian Adventure

Roam around Wallaby Walkabout, get close to some kangaroos and hop aboard the Boomerang Express to experience life Down Under. Spread out over eight acres, Australian Adventure features a 55-foot-tall Yagga tree play area for children to explore, a lorikeet aviary where you can feed nectar to colorful parrots and GumLeaf Hideout, home to koalas and tree kangaroos.

Australian Adventure is open April through October, and GumLeaf Hideout is open year-round. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, live animal shows are held daily at the Ballarat Theater.

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Northern Trek

Enjoy an expedition through Northern Trek, home to cold-climate animals such as polar bears, Amur tigers, reindeer, Bactrian camels, sea lions and harbor seals. The Zoo's collection of bear species at Northern Trek is one of the largest in North America, with polar and black bears, grizzlies, sun bears, sloth bears and Andean bears.

And be sure to visit Wolf Wilderness, home to six young Mexican wolves. The sister wolves are very active and playful, and they represent the most genetically distinct subspecies of wolf in North America. Wolf Wilderness is also home to beavers, bald eagles and aquatic life and provides visitors with a comprehensive look into the natural environment and wildlife of a northern temperate forest.

African Savanna

Stroll through the grassy plains of the African Savanna and see lions, giraffes, zebras, gazelles, black rhinos and African birds in naturalistic settings. Also, be sure to check out Monkey Island, one of the Zoo's most popular exhibits since 1936 and now home to Colobus monkeys, klipspringers and rock hyrax.

While in the African Savanna, stop by the Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine, where you can learn about animal care, experience a day in the life of a zookeeper or veterinarian and maybe even see a live veterinary procedure.

Primate, Cat & Aquatics Building

See Western lowland gorillas, baboons, swamp monkeys, lemurs, spider monkeys and more. Also catch a glimpse of rare snow leopards, red pandas, clouded leopards and 35 different displays of saltwater and freshwater life, including sharks, piranhas, a giant Pacific octopus and coral.

During warmer months, check out the building's back yard -- home to both the fastest and slowest living species on earth. You may witness cheetahs racing around their grassy expanse while nearby Aldabra tortoises inch along or lounge in their mud bath.

Waterfowl Lake

Observe majestic birds of prey such as a Steller's sea eagle and condors in their aviary, and enjoy the view while relaxing alongside the picturesque lake. During warmer months, its shores may be populated with flamingos and trumpeter swans and its islands with gibbons, tamarins, lemurs and more.

Visit neighboring Wade Hall, the Zoo's oldest building and now home to an ice cream shop. Stroll through the Public Greenhouse to admire hundreds of tropical plant displays and walk among dozens of free-flying butterflies during the warmer months. Nearby, you'll find Free Flight Falls, the year-round outdoor exhibit that offers secluded viewing of native birds and butterflies with a beautiful waterfall backdrop.