

RIVERS OF THE WORLD – EXHIBITS AND ANIMALS

Mississippi River



The river journey begins along the riverbank of North America's longest river, home to river dwellers such as the alligator snapping turtle, alligator gar and paddlefish.

The alligator gar is an ancient fish that has existed for 100 million years. It gets its name from an alligator-like snout and its double row of dagger-sharp teeth. This river monster has been known to grow up to 3m long.

Congo River



Travel down to Africa's deepest river and visitors will be greeted by dwarf crocodiles and underwater scenes of the Congo River with colourful fishes such as the Congo tetra and jewel cichlid.

The dwarf crocodile, as the name suggests, is a small crocodile rarely exceeding 1.6m in length compared to its cousin, the Nile crocodile that averages 4 to 5m long. They are found in Western Africa and Western central Africa.

River Nile



The earth's longest river is home to the ferocious African tigerfish, giraffe catfish, spiny eel and birchir.

The African tigerfish has dagger-shaped, interlocking teeth that can rip giant chunks out of its prey. Often regarded as a river monster, the tigerfish hunts in large roving schools of similar sized fish.

Ganges River



Venture down to India's sacred Ganges River, a centre of social and religious tradition, set against the facade of the iconic Varanasi temple. This river zone is home to the Indian gharial and goonch catfish.

The goonch catfish, also known as the giant devil catfish, is a large carnivorous catfish growing up to 1.6m. Known for its reputation of attacking humans, this species is threatened as a result of over-harvesting and the aquarium trade.

Mekong River



At the Mekong River zone, visitors can catch the long-tailed macaques (also known as crab-eating macaques) diving for food underwater. This zone also showcases a terraced field, a sight common to the agricultural region of Thailand.

The highlight of this zone is a 3m-tall aquarium (volume: 540m³) with a large underwater view of megafishes such as the Mekong giant catfish and the giant freshwater stingray.

One of the world's largest freshwater fish, the Mekong giant catfish is critically endangered due to human activities such as overfishing, pollution and the looming construction of more hydroelectric dams at the Mekong River.

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Yangtze River

This river zone begins with a picturesque backdrop of the rugged highlands of China and draws visitors to the lower reaches of the Yangtze, home to the critically endangered Yangtze alligator and the world's largest amphibian – the Chinese giant salamander.

The Yangtze alligator, known in its native country as the mud dragon, was once widely found in China. Today, it is estimated that only 200 Yangtze alligators are left in the wild due to habitat loss, pollution and hunting. This small crocodilian, measuring up to 2m, has been the subject of conservation breeding and while their numbers in captivity have increased to 10,000, suitable habitats for release into the wild are still hard to come by.

The highlight of the Yangtze River zone is the 1,500m² **Giant Panda Forest**, home to a pair of giant pandas (*Kai Kai* and *Jia Jia*), red pandas and golden pheasants. Visitors can walk along an elevated boardwalk in this biodome that simulates the bears' natural habitat with lush plants, boulders and water features. The temperature in the exhibit is kept between 18-22 degrees Celsius year-round to ensure the pandas' comfort.



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WILD AMAZONIA – EXHIBITS AND ANIMALS



No riverine expedition is complete without a journey down the Amazon River. At **Wild Amazonia**, visitors can explore the world's largest river at three main exhibits: **Amazon River Quest**, **Squirrel Monkey Forest** and **Amazon Flooded Forest**.

At the Amazon River Quest, visitors can hop on board a 10-minute boat ride that brings them up-close to nearly 30 fascinating animal species that live along the edges of the river. These include the jaguar, Brazilian tapir, capybara and giant anteater.

From the boat ride adventure, visitors can step into the **Squirrel Monkey Forest** and catch the agile and playful squirrel monkeys move through the trees in this walk-through habitat.



At the **Amazon Flooded Forest**, visitors can wander into the depths of this multi-level exhibit to witness a beautiful and mysterious underwater ecosystem that is home to piranhas and giant river otters.

River Safari is the first park in Asia to feature the endangered giant river otter, the world's largest otter that measures 1.8m from nose to tail tip. Often hunted extensively for their fur, these river giants are now amongst the rarest otters in the world.



The centrepiece of the **Amazon Flooded Forest** is a large aquatic display of the South American rainforest that is submerged every year during the rainy season when the river rises 30 to 40 feet.

Here, visitors can view a surreal world where manatees, arapaimas and other creatures swim amongst giant trees. Over 18 animal species are featured in this aquatic display.

With a volume of 2,000m³ and a viewing window of 22 metres (L) by 4 metres (H), it is the world's largest freshwater aquarium designed to provide visitors with an immersive experience, enhanced by dim lightings and mystical music.

This ecological showcase can be seen through underwater viewing galleries at different levels - from the very bottom of the forest floor up to the water's surface.

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RESERVOIR CRUISE

The latest attraction launched in August 2014, the **Reservoir Cruise** brings visitors on a relaxing 15-minute journey along the scenic Upper Seletar Reservoir to enjoy views of clear blue skies, lush green forests and a chance to spot wildlife. This man-made lake not only provides drinking water, it is home to native species such as the long-tailed macaque and water monitor lizard. With the aid of a commentary, visitors will learn about the beautiful forest giants that surround the reservoir and the delicate freshwater habitats. The cruise meanders along the outskirts of Singapore Zoo and Night Safari, giving visitors a chance to spot wildlife nestled on the edges of these parks such as giraffes and rhinos. Bird watchers can keep their eyes peeled for an array of free-ranging feathered creatures, from storks to herons, which may make a stopover by the banks or roost on the trees.



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