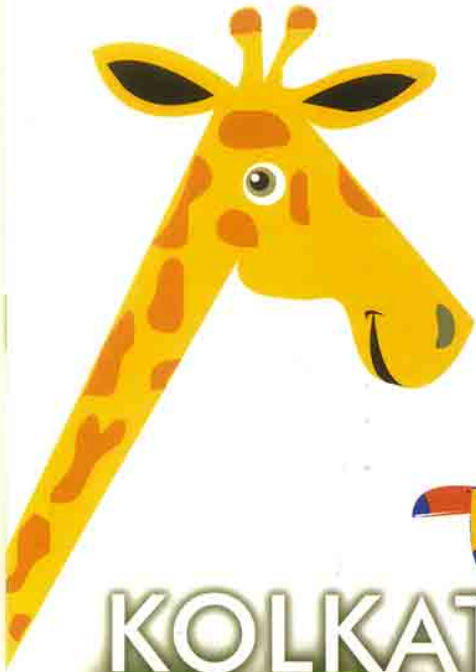




WELCOME TO



KOLKATA  
ZOO



ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, ALIPORE

## HISTORY

The history of the Zoological Garden, Alipore dates back as far as 1842. Dr. John McClelland the Curator, Bengal Asiatic Society's Museum formulated a plan for establishment of Zoological Garden in Calcutta which was published in the Calcutta Journal of Natural History entitled "Proposal to form a Zoological Garden in Calcutta". The plan did not attract any notice at that time. Dr. Joseph Bart Fayrer, the then President of the Asiatic Society of Bengal formulated another plan in 1867 for establishment of a zoo. The plan had immense impact on the public, but due to non-availability of suitable site, the plan could not materialize. In 1873, Carl Louis Schwendler, Postmaster to the Government of India submitted a suitable plan for establishing a zoological garden. Due to non-availability of suitable site, the plan was kept in abeyance. Finally, in 1875, the then Lt. Governor of Bengal, Sir Richard Temple constituted a Committee to find out an appropriate site for establishing a Zoological Garden. The said Committee chose the land on each side of the Alipore Road leading from Zerrut Bridge to Belvedere.

The site was approved by the Lt. Governor of Bengal on 24th September, 1875.

A sum of Rs.5000/- was sanctioned for the immediate purpose of laying out only a part of the grounds on the Western side of the Belvedere Road and erecting only a few cheap and temporary structures for the reception of animals. Mr. Schwendler readily donated his fine collection of specimens and by December, 1875 a sizeable menagerie was established with the generous contributions from a number of donors.



The relation between man and animals dates back as far as prehistoric era, which had led to development of what we called " Zoo ".

Egyptian rulers kept animals long back as 2500 BC. Chinese Emperor Wen Wang in 2000 BC established " Garden of Intelligence " in



China where some common animals were kept. Likewise several Rulers, Emperors tried to develop their private collection of animals several times. The first Zoo which still exists, was developed in Schonbrun, Austria in 1759 by Emperor Francis I as a present for his wife " Maria Therasa ".

With the establishment of the Zoological Society of London in 1826, utility of zoos was realized but even then animals continued to be kept in cages. In 1907, Carl Hagenback developed the concept of barless moated enclosures and this concept of display of animals influenced the managers of zoos around the world. In place of smaller cages, spacious enclosures came into being that also helped in maintaining the biological and psychological need of the captive animals.



During the past few decades, the role of zoos changed dramatically. The menagerie of 19th Century developed into Zoological Parks in 20th Century and ultimately the same developed into conservation centres in 21st Century. Over the period of time, justifications of establishing a zoo have changed from mere exhibitionism, entertainment and amusement into research, education and ex-situ conservation specially to complement in-situ-conservation.



During the British regime, present site of the zoo was in the outskirts of Kolkata, but in course of time the city expanded enormously and the zoo was virtually surrounded by other Institutions and real estate development leaving behind no scope for expansion.

In a limited space of 20.492 hectares of land the Zoo developed in an unplanned manner. For future development the Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi recommended to prepare a long term Master Plan. Presently this Zoo is passing through a phase of planned development.



Even in the limited space, the Zoo has successfully bred several endangered species like Tiger, Indian Lion, Leopard, Fishing Cat, Indian One Horned Rhino, Brow-antlered Deer, Swamp Deer, Chinkara, Black Buck, Nicobar Pigeon, Spoonbill, Common Peafowl, Wallaby, Giraffe, Zebra, Eland, Banteng, Jaguar, Puma, Baboon, Common Marmoset, different varieties of pheasants, Black Swan, Carolina Duck etc. The Zoo has the distinction in successfully transporting zoo-bred giraffe to Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai, National Zoological Park, New Delhi and Lucknow Zoological Park, Lucknow.

## MAMMALS

The Zoo is maintaining carnivorous animals like Bengal Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Jaguar, Fishing cat, Jungle cat, Sloth Bear, Himalayan Black Bear etc. Several herbivorous animals like Brow-antlered, Swamp Deer, Sambar Deer, Barking Deer, Hog Deer, Spotted Deer, White fallow Deer, Black buck, Nilgai, Indian one horned



rhino, Indian elephant, Zebra and Hippopotamus are also exhibited here. Amongst the primates, Chimpanzee, Hamadryas baboon, Olive baboon and Common marmoset are exotic while bonnet monkey, Rhesus monkey, Assamese monkey and Comon langur are the indigenous primates exhibited here.





## BIRDS

This Zoo is exhibiting several colourful exotic pheasants like Chinese Silver Pheasant, Golden Pheasant, Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Reeve's Pheasant, Green Pheasant and Nepal Kalij Pheasant and Bhutan Grey Peacock Pheasant. Several Cockatoos like Bare-eyed Cockatoo, Citron crested Cockatoo, Sulphur crested



Cockatoo, Moluccan Cockatoo and Goffin's Cockatoo and Macaws like red and Blue Macaw and also Blue and Yellow Bacaw are also exhibited in the zoo. Spoonbill, an endangered species is being bred regularly in the zoo. Sarus Crane and storks like Painted stork, Adjutant stork, White stork and Black necked stork are also exhibited.



## REPTILES

The snakes of the Zoo are housed in a special enclosure named "Reptile House". Indian python, Indian cobra, Common krait, Banded krait, Rat snake, Checkered keelback Water snake and Common wolf snake are exhibited here. The reptile house of the zoo would be suitably remodelled so as to house the snakes of



the zoo in a natural environment. The muggers or marsh crocodiles are exhibited in a rest of the enclosure having water body and basking area while gharials are exhibited adjacent to the enclosure of the pool of the mugger. Both mugger and gharials would be relocated in the hoolock island situated in front of the existing Reptile House.



The Zoological Garden, Alipore, with its greenery and 1545 Nos. of animals belonging to Mammals, Birds and Reptiles attracts peoples from all walks of life for the tune of 18 to 20 lakhs annually. Amongst the mammals, Bengal Tiger, White Tiger, Leopard, Lion, Giraffe, Hippopotamus, Chimpanzee, Common Marmoset etc. are the major attractions for visitors. Pheasants like Chinese Silver Pheasant, Bhutan Grey Peacock Pheasant, Golden Pheasant, Lady Amherst's Pheasant, Reeve's Pheasant, different varieties of Cockatoo, Macaw etc. draw spontaneous attraction of the visitors. The visitors are also curious about the snakes, muggers and gharials of this zoo.



### Migratory Birds

The natural lake of the Zoological Garden, Alipore is another major attraction for the visitors as during winter in the month of November or December, migratory birds like Garganey teal, Pintail, Lesser Whistling Teal visit this lake. They usually spend a couple of month in the lake and every year by the end of March, these migratory birds leave Alipore Zoo for their natural habitat.



### Aquarium

The aquarium of the Zoological Garden, Alipore, situated on the opposite side of the main entrance gate of the zoo is another attraction of the zoo. This aquarium for fresh water fishes was opened to the public on 3rd December, 1977. There are 17 large, 12 medium sized and 24 small tanks having many colourful indigenous and exotic fishes. Some interesting fishes of this aquarium are Piranha, Arowana, Leporinus, Parrot fish, Silver Shark, Crocodile fish etc. Plans are on the anvil to convert this aquarium into a larger modern facility.



### Entrance fee :

For the zoo	:	Rs.20/- per person
For the aquarium	:	Rs. 3/- per person
Video Photography	:	Rs.250/- per hour

### Zoo Hours :

Ticket counters of the zoo open at 09 .00 a.m. and close at 05.00 p.m.

The Aquarium of the zoo remains open between 10.30 a.m. and 05.00 p.m.

The Zoological Garden, Alipore remains closed for the visitors every Thursday . If Thursday is a public holiday, the zoo remains open to the visitors on that day and the weekly closure is observed on the next available working day.

## DO'S & DON'T

**DON'T** enter the zoo with polythene bag, plastic bottle and food.

**DON'T** feed or tease any wild animals of the zoo.

**DON'T** play any audio-system or musical instrument inside the zoo.

**DON'T** play cricket, football, badminton, flying dish etc. inside the zoo.

**DON'T** enter the zoo with any pet like dog,cat etc.

**DON'T** litter in the zoo.

**DON'T** try to enter any animal enclosure.

**DON'T** carry firearms or any sharp objects.

**DO** keep the premises of the zoo clean.

**DO** enjoy the vast collection of trees and plants of the zoo.

**DO** try to be cordial and polite with your fellow visitors.

**DO** extend your full cooperation with the management and security staff of the zoo. Promptly report any suspicious activities.



for further details please visit to :  
[www.kolkatazoo.in](http://www.kolkatazoo.in)