

AQUARIUM – OVERVIEW

Enclosure

Initial opening date: 5 October 1989
Surface area: 550 m²

Redesign

Reopening date: 28 September 2016
Planning & conversion: 2 years
Number of basins: 8
Cost of redesign: CHF 1.5 million, financed by donations

The aquarium is located on the ground floor of the Exotarium, first opened in 1989. In 2016, the exhibit was restructured and redesigned as part of a renovation and modernisation project, and placed under the guiding theme «Food, Glorius Food». The number of basins was reduced from 22 to 8. The new much larger basins form individual habitats, such as a coral reef or a tide pool. The penguins' indoor enclosure, housing king penguins in summer and Humboldt penguins in winter, is part of the aquarium as well as are various exhibition elements, an interactive aqualab and a cinema.

Animals

Over 85 fish species (almost 1500 individuals) live in the 8 basins of the aquarium. There are also various «cleaner species» such as shrimps, crabs, snails and starfish.

The habitats in the basins and the main species that live in them:

- «Rivers and lakes in the Amazon basin» feat. Electric eel;
- «Mangroves in the Indo-Pacific» (tide pool with high and low tides) feat. Archerfish and Mudskipper;
- «Reefs and rocky coasts in the Indo-Pacific» (predatory and venomous fish) feat. Lionfish, Blue-spotted ray, Snowflake moray, Epaulette shark and Coral catshark;
- «Coral reefs in the Indo-Pacific» feat. Clown fish and Palette surgeonfish;
- «Seaweed beds in the Indo-Pacific» feat. Garden eel and Seahorse;
- «Rivers and lakes in the Amazon basin» feat. Red piranha;
- «Rivers and lakes in South-East Asia» (Asian fresh water) feat. Labyrinth fish and Gourami;

- «Streams and rivers in Madagascar» (Madagascan fresh water) feat. Silverside and Powder-blue panchax.

International breeding programmes: Blue-spotted ray, Epaulette shark.

(📍 zoo.ch/zuchtprogramme)

Almost 1,500 soft corals, hard corals and gorgonia live in the 8 basins as well. They have all been bred. There are also various aquatic plants and mangroves.

The penguin's indoor enclosure is also located in the aquarium. It houses King penguins in summer, and Humboldt penguins in winter. Zoo Zurich keeps both species as part of international breeding programmes.

Further individual basins outside the aquarium can be found in the turtle house (Cichlid fish), with the otters (Common barbel) and in the Masoala Rainforest information centre (*Ptychochromis grandidieri*).

Nature conservation

Protecting penguins in the wild is one of Zoo Zurich's key conservation projects. The zoo is the Swiss headquarters of the Antarctic Research Trust ART. The organisation carries out research to ensure the long-term protection of penguins, albatrosses and their habitats in the Antarctic and Subantarctic.

(📍 zoo.ch/naturschutz-art)

Exhibition

«Food, Glorious Food»: The exhibition in the aquarium addresses the issue of marine pollution resulting from waste and microplastics, and illustrates the huge problems that it causes for the marine habitat and the animals that live there.

(📍 zoo.ch/ausstellung-aquarium)

Activities

Animal presentation: Animal keepers give information on various fish species.

(📍 zoo.ch/veranstaltungen)

Aqualab: In the aqualab, members of the FTZ volunteer team provide background information about «Food, Glorious Food» and inform visitors about the problems of pollution and overfishing.

Small cinema: Films on the topics of marine pollution and overfishing and on Zoo Zurich's ART nature conservation project.

Guided tours & events: Individual private and business events, guided tours and events.

(📍 zoo.ch/event)

📍 **Overview of the enclosure:** zoo.ch/anlagen-aquarium

📍 **Press releases, documentation:** zoo.ch/medien-aquarium