

## MONGOLIAN STEPPE – OVERVIEW

### Enclosure

Opening date:	12 May 2015
Planning & construction:	2 years
Surface area:	7,300 m <sup>2</sup>
Costs:	CHF 5.8 million, entirely financed by donations

The Mongolian steppe lives from a few striking design elements. The first of these are cyclops walls made of Alpine limestone. At the top, the walls are built to look like the Himalaya mountains in broken stone. Round granite stones complete the picture between the yurt village and the pool. The wooden constructions are the second characteristic feature. The two visible management buildings look like simple wooden buildings with typical stone-covered shingle roofs. Wooden fences made of chestnut wood surround the animal enclosures and allow flexible management. The most impressive objects are probably the seven original Mongolian yurts (Mongolian: ger). They form the real centre of the enclosure.

### Animals

Five Bactrian camels (*Camelus ferus f. bactriana*):

- Shamira (f), \*6.2002 (privately kept), in Zurich since 26.8.2009;
- Ona (f), \*21.2.2009 at the Walter Zoo Gossau, in Zurich since 4.5.2010;
- Thari (f), \*3.2012 (privately kept), in Zurich since 3.2015;
- Nara (f), \*24.4.2013 in Zoo Zurich, parents: Ona & Ulan-Ude;
- Ponnaya (f), \*7.4.2015 in Zoo Zurich, parents: Ona & Ulan-Ude.

Six domesticated yaks (*Bos mutus f. grunniens*):

- Lili (f), \*6.5.2012 (privately kept), in Zurich since 7.4.2015;
- Abella (f), \*1.9.2014 (privately kept), in Zurich since 7.4.2015;
- Qara (f), \*7.10.2015 in Zoo Zurich, parents: Lili & Yndi;
- Rintschen (m), \*14.5.2017 in Zoo Zurich, parents: Abella & Yndi;
- Rajiv (m), \*21.6.2017 in Zoo Zurich, parents: Pasang & Yndi;
- Sahila (f), \*14.5.2018 in Zoo Zurich, partents: Lili & Yndi.

There are also two Cashmere goats (*Capra hircus laniger*).

## Conservation

The Mongolian steppe represents a further step towards becoming a conservation centre.

(📄 [zoo.ch/en/conservation](https://zoo.ch/en/conservation))

## Exhibition

«No cheese without biodiversity»: The exhibition in the largest yurt in the Mongolian steppe tells the story of milk as a human foodstuff.

(📄 [zoo.ch/ausstellung-mongolischesteppe](https://zoo.ch/ausstellung-mongolischesteppe))

## Activities

Camel rides: Meet our camels up close (spring to autumn).

(📄 [zoo.ch/kamelreiten](https://zoo.ch/kamelreiten))

Animal presentations: Animal keepers inform visitors to the Mongolian steppe about the different domestic and working animals.

(📄 [zoo.ch/veranstaltungen](https://zoo.ch/veranstaltungen))

Night expeditions: Spend a night at the zoo! Take part in a range of organised activities and sleep in the yurts in the Mongolian steppe.

(📄 [zoo.ch/nachtwandeln](https://zoo.ch/nachtwandeln))

Guided tours & events: Custom private and business events and guided tours.

(📄 [zoo.ch/event](https://zoo.ch/event))

📄 **Overview of the enclosure:** [zoo.ch/anlagen-mongolischesteppe](https://zoo.ch/anlagen-mongolischesteppe)

📄 **Media releases, documentations:** [zoo.ch/medien-mongolischesteppe](https://zoo.ch/medien-mongolischesteppe)