



Gondwanaland: The new tropical world of experience at Leipzig Zoo

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Leipzig Zoo is being transformed into one of the world's most modern and innovative zoos. Opening 'Gondwanaland' in 2011 was an important stage in creating this 'zoo of the future'. Covering an area of 16,500 m², it is the largest tropical house of its kind in Europe. It houses more than 17,000 tropical plants and 300 animals typical of rainforests that once characterised Gondwana, and provides visitors with new insights into rainforest ecosystems and their protection.

Animals represent all classes, from the leaf-cutting ant to Malayan tapirs. Large tanks display Arapaimas, other large South American fishes, Sunda gharials and large Asian fishes and turtles. Aquatic mammals include giant river otters, fishing cats and pygmy hippopotamus. The zoo applies high standards of species protection and sustainable design. For example, Gondwanaland collects rainwater in cisterns for irrigation, and wherever possible the exhibit is heated by sunlight. Heat is stored in a geothermal tank and used to heat the exhibit at night, as well as the irrigation water and the pools for the animals.