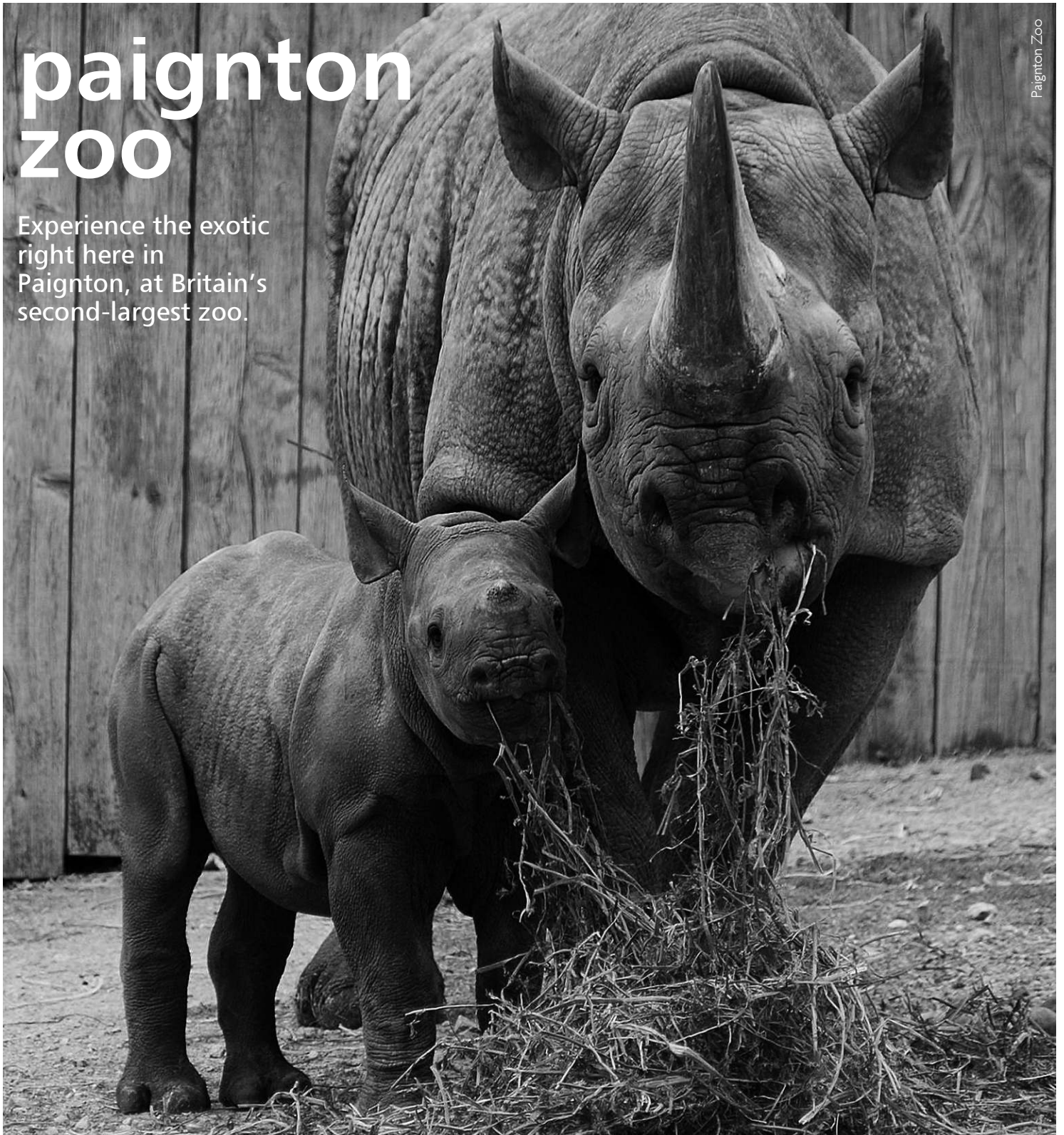


paignton zoo

Experience the exotic right here in Paignton, at Britain's second-largest zoo.



Paignton Zoo

Located less than a 20-minute walk from LAL Torbay, Paignton Zoo Environmental Park is home to some of the world's most endangered plants and animals. As a registered education and conservation charity its role is to conserve plants, animals and their habitats. By doing this the zoo ensures that the world of the future remains as diverse, beautiful and interesting as it is now.

The zoo is committed to carrying out public education, research, captive

breeding and practical field conservation. Many of the species you will see are part of national and international breeding programmes.

The zoo was founded in 1923 by a shy, eccentric millionaire, Herbert Whitley. On show were monkeys, bears, bison, zebra, hyenas, baboons and many birds. The entry fee was one shilling (equivalent to 5p).

After Whitley's death in 1955 a registered charity was founded to

continue his work. The Trust bought Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve and the grounds of Paignton Zoo were added to with the sites of Primley Park Reserve and Clennon Gorge Nature Trail.

Paignton Zoo is a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, a global network of zoos working together to support the conservation of species, habitats and ecosystems. The rate of extinction and habitat destruction is now so high that

baby rhino

While you are at the zoo don't forget to look out for the four-month-old baby black rhino (pictured opposite with her mother), the first to be born at Paignton Zoo.

Zuri was born on 5th March, and was a star attraction at the zoo even before she was born. People all over the world watched the progress of one-tonne mum Sita on

the internet via a web-cam during her pregnancy, thanks to the BBC and British Telecom who set up cameras and a dedicated internet connection. The baby was originally expected to arrive in January, but kept the zoo staff and web-cam watchers waiting nervously for two months.

Black rhinoceroses are an endangered species, and it is thought that there are only 3,100 remaining in Africa. The birth of

Zuri is an important milestone in the programme to conserve the black rhino, and was a particular delight because only 25% of black rhinos born in captivity are female.

Zuri is now growing up fast. Although she will feed from her mother for over a year, she is already eating carrots and hay. Her horn has grown to 7.5cm (3").

Zuri's mother, Sita, is expected to breed again in two years.

it is hard to be optimistic about the future – conservation action is essential. Careful management of the planet for sustainable use of its resources could lead to a stable situation where human impacts on the environment are held in check and considerable wildlife remains.

Unlike many zoos which consist of animals kept in cages randomly around their site, Paignton Zoo is made up of six distinct habitats designed to show plants and animals in naturalistic areas: wetland; forest; savannah; desert; Devon woodland; and tropical forest. The animals are provided with equipment such as ropes, logs and platforms to encourage climbing and interest. Food is made less easy to get at by hiding, scattering and presenting it in natural form, such as whole vegetables, branches and sweetcorn with husks. Toys and items are placed in the animals' environment to encourage interest and make their days more stimulating. Enclosures are

planted to create natural environments which represent the habitats of the world. The stages in creating an exhibit are: concept, followed by design, then positioning and planting and finally nurture. The plant Curator considers the animal's specific habitat, origins of existing plants, availability of new specimens and the space needed for growth.

Did you know that over a quarter of all our medicines originate from the tropical rainforest? Or that aspirin was originally obtained from the bark of a willow tree? Plants have been the source of medicines for thousands of years. Around the new Vet Centre, there is a garden that celebrates the pharmaceutical value of plants. Everyday plants are represented here with information about some of their medicinal uses.

Animals or plants can be adopted as a unique gift that helps conservation from as little as £35 per year. The

adoption package includes a certificate, an engraved plaque near your chosen animal or plant, a photograph, a year's subscription to Zoo News and a free ticket to the zoo.

Paignton Zoo is also a partner in Dambari Field Station in Zimbabwe. The station works closely with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management on research and conservation of rhinos, cheetah and small antelope. In Zanzibar the zoo is advising on the potential for captive breeding of Aders' Duiker (a small and very rare deer), and has field conservation projects in the Okomu Forest National Park, Nigeria.

Environmental facts and figures:

- Almost 90% of savannah grassland has disappeared in the last 5,000 years.
- There are fewer than 20,000 Orang Utan in the world.
- There are fewer than 400 Sumatran tigers left in the wild.
- There are more than 10,000 species of bird, 11% are in danger.
- Only 250 Asiatic lions exist in the wild.

Location:

Paignton Zoo is on the A3022 Totnes Road 1 mile from Paignton town centre, near *Morrisons* supermarket

Opening Times:

Daily from 10.00am 'til 5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm)

Admission :

Adult	£11.35
Child (3 – 15 years)	£7.60
Senior citizen	£9.35

(The admission fee includes a voluntary donation to Paignton Zoo's conservation work and to raise funds

