

ADELAIDE
ZOO



Giant Pandas

at Adelaide Zoo



Adelaide Zoo is home to the only Giant Pandas in the Southern Hemisphere, as part of a long-standing international conservation partnership between Australia and China.

The Giant Panda program supports:

- International conservation collaboration
- Scientific research and knowledge sharing
- Public education and connection with wildlife
- Tourism and visitation to South Australia
- Cultural exchange between Australia and China.

Adelaide Zoo's Giant Panda agreement is held in partnership with the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda (CCRCGP), one of the world's leading Giant Panda conservation and research organisations.

The Giant Pandas at Adelaide Zoo are cared for by specialist animal care and veterinary teams with expertise in panda husbandry, nutrition, behaviour, welfare, and habitat management.

History of Giant Pandas at Adelaide Zoo

Adelaide Zoo has been home to Giant Pandas since 2009, when Wang Wang and Fu Ni arrived in South Australia under a bilateral conservation agreement between Australia and China.

Over 15 years, Wang Wang and Fu Ni became deeply loved members of the Adelaide Zoo community and important ambassadors for conservation, helping connect millions of visitors with wildlife and the importance of protecting threatened species and habitats.

In 2024, Wang Wang and Fu Ni returned to their native homeland and Giant Pandas Xing Qiu and Yi Lan arrived at Adelaide Zoo, as part of a renewed Giant Panda partnership program – continuing the long standing conservation and cultural relationship between Australia and China.





Meet the panda pair

Xing Qiu

Xing Qiu is a male Giant Panda, born 29 September 2020.

Xing Qiu (pronounced Shing Chee-yull) means “Autumn Star,” a name inspired by the season and starry night of his birth. Xing Qiu is calm yet playful, with a love of water, enrichment activities and food-based puzzles. Keepers say he is always at the centre of the action, whether splashing in puddles or covering himself in his favourite scent, oatmeal concentrate. When it’s time to rest, he can usually be found napping on a high platform or cool rock, never too far from his bamboo stash.



Yi Lan

Yi Lan is a female Giant Panda, born 10 August 2021.

Yi Lan (pronounced Ee-lun) means “Idly Blissful,” perfectly reflecting her playful and charming personality. Yi Lan is agile, curious and full of energy, with a love of enrichment ranging from hammocks and tire swings to bubble machines and scented towels infused with cinnamon and nutmeg. She can often be found perched high in the trees, occasionally peeking out at visitors as they enter the zoo. From playful tug-of-war sessions with keepers to tumbling from her hammock, Yi Lan brings a touch of panda chaos wherever she goes.



Breeding and research

Breeding is one component of the global Giant Panda conservation program and is carefully coordinated through international conservation and population management programs.

Giant Panda breeding is known to be complex, with females typically fertile for only a very short period of time each spring – between only 36 and 72 hours. Successful breeding outcomes rely on a wide range of factors including animal health, reproductive timing, genetics, behaviour, compatibility, and welfare considerations.

As a species naturally adapted to the Northern Hemisphere seasonal cycle, Giant Pandas typically enter breeding season during spring. For these two pandas living in the Southern Hemisphere, their reproductive cycles and seasonal cues need to adjust to the opposite seasonal calendar.



Adelaide Zoo works closely with the CCRCGP and international specialists to support ongoing reproductive monitoring, scientific collaboration, and knowledge sharing.

While breeding is an important aspect of Giant Panda conservation globally, the Adelaide Zoo program also contributes through significant scientific research, education, public engagement, conservation awareness, animal welfare, and international collaboration.

Conservation impact

Giant Pandas are currently listed as Vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

In 2016, the species' conservation status was downgraded from Endangered to Vulnerable following decades of conservation effort, habitat protection, scientific research, and coordinated international collaboration.

The change in status is widely recognised as an important global conservation success and reflects the positive impact long-term conservation investment and collaboration can have for threatened species.



Global Giant Panda conservation efforts involve:

- Habitat protection and restoration
- Scientific research
- Breeding and population management programs
- International collaboration between conservation organisations

Modern zoo-based conservation programs play an important role in supporting species knowledge, veterinary advancements, and long term conservation outcomes.

Animal welfare and care

The welfare of the animals in our care is our highest priority at Zoos SA.

The Giant Panda habitat at Adelaide Zoo has been purpose-designed to support the species' behavioural and physical needs, including:

- Access to climate-controlled spaces
- Varied terrain and vegetation
- Opportunities for choice and agency
- Specialised nutrition and browse programs
- Behavioural enrichment and husbandry training.

Zoos SA's animal care and veterinary teams work closely with international Giant Panda specialists and conservation partners to support best practice care.



Funding and support

The Giant Panda program is supported through a combination of operational investment, partnerships, visitation, philanthropic giving, and government support arrangements associated with the international program.

Australian Government support contributes to Australia's participation in the international Giant Panda partnership program, including cooperative conservation, scientific collaboration, and cultural exchange arrangements with China.

Zoos SA remains responsible for the provision and costs of day-to-day care, welfare, nutrition, habitat management, and veterinary care of Giant Pandas at Adelaide Zoo.

The program also contributes significant tourism, visitation, education, and broader economic benefits for South Australia.

Tourism and community impact

Giant Pandas are an important tourism and community asset for South Australia, attracting visitors from across Australia and the world.

The Giant Panda program contributes to:

- Tourism and visitation
- Education and learning experiences
- Conservation awareness
- Community connection with wildlife and nature
- South Australia's international profile.

About Zoos SA

Zoos SA is a not for profit conservation charity that exists to connect people with nature and save species from extinction. Since 1878, Zoos SA has long been established as a treasured part of the community, representing a significant part of South Australia's heritage and is one of the state's oldest conservation organisations.

Zoos SA operates Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park; each is a unique blend of conservation and zoological activities that encourage science-based conservation work, public recreation, education, and tourism. Together they house a wide variety of spectacular wildlife in internationally renowned exhibits.

Adelaide Zoo is home to more than 2,500 animals and 250 species of exotic and native mammals, birds, reptiles and fish exhibited over eight hectares of magnificent botanic surroundings. It is the second oldest zoo in Australia, having first opened to the public in 1883, and is the only major metropolitan zoo to be owned and operated by a conservation charity. Adelaide Zoo is a relaxing green city oasis and vibrant sanctuary that gives you the feeling of stepping into another world – full of diversity, colour, and unique things to see and do.