

Tiergarten Schönbrunn

ORANG.erie <http://www.zoolex.org/zoolexcgi/view.py?id=1220>

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ZooLex



LOCATION

Maxingstraße 13b, 1130 Wien, Austria

URL: <http://www.zoovienna.at>

ANIMALS

Family: Hominidae

Species: *Pongo pygmaeus*

Common Name: Borneo orang-utan

Capacity: 1.3.2

DESCRIPTION

The Orang.erie is located outside on the other side of a botanical garden and can be directly accessed from the zoo by a pedestrian underpass.

Since the construction of the greenhouse under the Austrian Emperor Francis I in 1820, the three parted building has undergone various changes and utilizations. In the early years, it was used for wintering citrus plants. In the second half of the 19th century, the two side wings sheltered aviaries with hundreds of birds of the former menagerie Schönbrunn and in 1878, the first orangutan was being kept in the Orang.erie. After around 1920, it accommodated the "Schönbrunn Film Studios" and the Austrian Broadcasting Studios. When these moved to other locations, the building remained empty until its transformation into a new zoo attraction.

Since the building's reconstruction in 2009, the great hall in the main tract is



Borneo Orangutan ©Norbert Potensky, 2010

being used for events. The left tract was transformed into an orangutan holding facility, and the right tract into a cafeteria. At the "Café Atelier Nonja", visitors can see drawings by the female orangutan Nonja. Additionally, the complex holds the zoo's archive, educational department, library and visitor toilets.

SIZE

After reconstruction in 2009, the new orangutan exhibit at the Schönbrunn Orang.erie offers generous space to its new inhabitants. The indoor exhibit

alone is now bigger than the former in- and outdoor enclosures together.

COSTS: € 11,500,000

OPENING DATE: 20 May 2009

DESIGN

Beginning: 2000

- architecture: Wehdorn Architekten ZT GmbH, Vienna
- construction supervision: DI Peter Hartmann, Vienna
- structural calculation: Fröhlich & Locher ZT GmbH, Vienna
- project management: bergsmann-pm GmbH, Vienna

CONSTRUCTION: Beginning: 27 November 2006

PLANTS: In the part of the enclosure that is accessible for the orang-utans, bamboo was planted, which separates the enclosure and gives the orang-utans the opportunity to find hiding places. Roses were planted between the pond and the electric fence.

FEATURES DEDICATED TO ANIMALS

Both the indoor and the outdoor exhibits are furnished with a climbing frame of up to 11 meter long, robinia trunks with nets, and ropes that provide various activity possibilities for the orangutans. The outdoor exhibit includes a little stream that leads into a pond. These are fenced in by electric wires in order to prevent fatalities from orangs walking into the water. A lot of bamboo was planted in the exhibit which provides screens and hideaways for the apes. Special sound-absorbing



Male Orangutan ©Norbert Potensky, 2010

windows (septuplicate glazing) prevent sounds and vibrations from being transferred into the indoor section.

FEATURES DEDICATED TO KEEPERS

Keepers have access to the outdoor exhibit through large gates in the back, out of view of the visitors. The orangutans can be locked in three separate indoor enclosures. Cameras transmit views of all ape spaces into a surveillance system in the service area. Keepers paths are short and direct.

FEATURES DEDICATED TO VISITORS

Visitors can have different views into the exhibits: outdoors from an observation window in the pedestrian underpass and across the pond, inside from a large window on the narrow side of the exhibit and from a kind of glass box on the long side of the exhibit, which gives the impression of standing inside the orangutans' space.

INTERPRETATION

The indoor exhibition informs about evolution, biology and conservation of orangutans. The exhibition space is built to look like the inside of a hut in Borneo. A cabinet with backlit drawers allows to present many objects in a small space.

MANAGEMENT

The animals have the choice to move in and out most of the time.

RESEARCH

The project "The new Tiergarten Orang.erie - Unusual? And how inhabited?" documents the relocation of Schönbrunn's orangutans from the old apehouse to the new Orang.erie. This project also examines the enlargement of the group by two female orangutans. "The new Tiergarten Orang.erie - Hormone level OK?" was a research project about the testosterone level of the male orangutan when interacting with an unknown female, in comparison with the testosterone level of the male with a known female.

CONSERVATION

A cooperation between the "Verein der Freunde des Tiergarten Schönbrunn" and the "Four Paws" financially supports the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS) which runs a rescue center for orangutans in Samboja Lestari, Borneo. Here, injured, orphaned and confiscated rangutans are nursed back to health and prepared for release. See www.orang-utans.org for more information.



Inside observation window ©Florian Lehner, 2010



The current inhabitants are introduced on a sign and in keeper talks ©Monika Fiby, 2011