



**IF YOU GO TO THE ZOO**

**Location:**  
From the North on U.S. 101: Take the Milpas Street exit. Turn right on Milpas Street and turn left on Cabrillo Boulevard. Turn left at the first light, which is Niños Drive. The entrance is on the right side across from the playing fields.

**Admission:**  
Adults 13-59, \$10; children 2-12/ seniors 60-plus, \$8; children under 2, free.

**Parking:**  
\$3 (free with SB Zoo Membership)

**Information:**  
Santa Barbara Zoo, 500 Niños Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
**Main Phone:** 962-5339  
**Info Line:** 962-6310  
**Admissions Office:** 963-5695. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas.  
**Website:** www.sbzoo.org

**Special Events:**  
Monarch Grove Morris Dancers and Friends, Oct. 7; Fox Festival, Oct. 8; Boo at the Zoo, Oct. 27-29.



# The Santa Barbara Zoo

By Tony Galván

**H**alloween is almost here and I can't think of a better place to get into the swing of things than a visit to the Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens. I don't mean just the Eeeww exhibit, but the entire zoo itself. There are plenty of tricks and treats for young and old alike.



## The Day Tripper

Since Aug. 4, 1963, the Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens has been pleasantly surprising visitors and residents alike in a setting that has given it the distinction of being one of the most beautiful zoos anywhere. The Santa Barbara Zoo cares for over 500 animals from 130 species. What's more amazing is that it's all on 30 acres!

### In the beginning, Jungleville...

In the early 1900s thoriginal zoo property was home to John and Lillian Child. The Child Estate, as it was known, was later deeded by Lillian Child to the Santa Barbara Foundation on the condition that the property would be used for a park.

The other condition she stipulated was that the hobos who lived on her property in an area known as Jungleville be allowed to remain on the property. This stipulation was honored until the last "hobo" left Jungleville in the early 50s, then things changed. The city of Santa Barbara and other groups worked to create the park. Ideas came and went and in 1963 Jungleville officially became the Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens.

Today, 30 acres offer visitors an opportunity to see some of the most amazing creatures on the planet. With conservation, preservation and enhancement of the natural world in mind the zoo strives to create unique habitats for its residents and provide

visitors with a special experience as well.

The zoo has had some famous residents as well, and today is no exception. Kali, the lioness, is one of these famous residents. She celebrated her 20th birthday this summer with a special birthday cake of lion goodies. Kali can be seen at the Cats of Africa exhibit, which she shares with Docha, the young male lion who celebrated his first birthday in June.

A few years ago "The Santa Barbara Five," a quintet of Meerkats that had been on loan to a private zoo in Texas, made national headlines. These wayward African mongoose were the center of a soap-opera adventure that ended when the five castaways were tracked down by law-enforcement officers and flown back to home in a private airplane.

One well-known and favorite resident is Gemina, the crooked-neck giraffe. Gemina is a Baringo giraffe who arrived at the zoo as a youngster in 1986. As she matured her neck developed a small kink which formed from an unstable joint in her neck. Because it's dangerous to anesthetize a giraffe she's never had her neck X-rayed to find out the problem really is. However, she leads a normal life and even gave birth to a baby in 1999!

### What's new at the zoo ...

Today's most popular residents are those black and white birds that bray like donkies and eat fish, Humboldt Penguins. Now totaling 19, these birds in tuxedos arrived in June and, needless to say, are very popular. Humboldts are flightless birds found on the coasts of Peru and Chile and they like fish all kinds of fish. They are the beginnings of a South American habitat theme, which also includes those playful coatimundis. Eventu-

ally the exhibit will include seabirds native to the Americas including Inca Terns, Brown Pelicans and a few more surprises.

In the works is the Wild California exhibit with Channel Island Foxes and California condors. Currently, only the San Diego Wild Animal Park exhibits condors. Santa Barbara's exhibit make it unique among zoos.

The project is one of several where the zoo's expertise and facilities are used with other agencies in helping keep endangered species recover from habitat loss, predation and other threats.

### You and the zoo...

The zoo sponsors a host of community events and programs throughout the year and provides opportunities for students and adults to get involved by volunteering in areas such as animal care, zoo docents and special events volunteers. The zoo offers volunteer opportunities for everyone, whether you want to learn and work with animals, volunteer your time as a gardener or maybe help with special events. There's something for everyone.

Over the years certain events have become a zoo trademark. Kids love the Boo at the Zoo, which this year will be held Oct. 27-29. You'll love the creepy goings on during Halloween week. Grownups get their own programs at the zoo as well. In February, Love on the Wild Side is geared just for adults around Valentines Day, and during Fiesta the zoo hosts several events in keeping with fiesta theme.

There's always something going on at the zoo. Only minutes from Goleta, go out and take a walk on the wild side.

*Tony Galván, is a natural history illustrator, photographer and kinda nosey traveler who lives in Goleta.*