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NEW REPTILE EXHIBIT!

Zoo brings more reptiles and amphibians to new Reptile Realm
Discover the forests of Southeast Asia and Oceania starting Nov. 14

SEATTLE—Slithering, scaly, adaptable, agile, tongue-flicking, and vibrant are just several characteristics of reptiles that will be in full glory at Woodland Park Zoo's new Reptile Realm, a transformation of the former Adaptations Building. The new exhibit will open November 14.



Reptile Realm is designed to introduce visitors to a variety of reptiles and amphibians native to diverse habitats such as mangrove swamps of the Aru and Sula Islands of Indonesia, coastal marshes in the Philippines, tropical forests on the Solomon Islands, grasslands of the Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia, and other forests in Southeast Asia and Oceania. Hundreds of distinctive species of reptiles and amphibians call these biodiversity hot spots home where they have uniquely adapted to meet the specific environmental conditions of the islands in which they range.

Come face to face with some really cool animals (and more) and experience firsthand how reptiles and amphibians adapt to survive, finding heat, water and places to hide:

Timor python – These nocturnal constrictors, ranging 5 to 8 feet long, ambush small reptiles, birds, mice and rats. During the day, they bask in the treetops, regulating their temperature in the sun, while digesting their food and preparing for another late-night snack.

Quince monitor – Speaking of tongue-flicking, these lizards search for food while tasting the air with their long-forked tongues. They have sharp claws and are excellent climbers through the forest trees. These vibrantly colored lizards get their name from the bright yellow quince fruit.

Giant forest tortoise – Unlike most tortoises which bask in the sun, giant forest tortoises live in moist forested areas and prefer the shade. These critically endangered reptiles play an important role in the ecosystem by dispersing seeds on the forest floor. These omnivorous giants mostly eat plants but will also eat invertebrates and frogs.

Solomon Islands leaf frog – An aptly named frog! A triangular head, a somewhat flattened body, veins on its back, the bump sticking out from the end of its snout, and a spike sticking up above each eye give the appearance of leaves, making it easy for these frogs to camouflage in leaf litter in their forest habitat.

A highlight of Reptile Realm may not be new but is always a visitor favorite—Komodo dragons, the largest lizards on the planet. Be in awe of these formidable reptiles; two males, Nakal and Berani, currently live at the zoo.

“There has been a steady demand by our visitors for more reptiles and amphibians, so we’re looking forward to introducing Reptile Realm to our community. We are excited to share the spectacular appearances and fascinating behaviors of these

animals with our visitors, as well as teach about the important ecological roles they play in their ecosystems,” said Roger Sweeney, Chief Zoological Officer at Woodland Park Zoo. “By visiting Reptile Realm, we hope our visitors will take away a better appreciation of these uniquely adaptable, tropical animals, the threats they face and the action we can all take to help our planet.”

Reptile Realm will be free with zoo admission or membership and open during regular zoo hours. And, just in time for the holidays, Reptile Realm will be a feature at [WildLanterns](#) from 4:00 to 7:00 nightly. Visit www.zoo.org/reptilerealm for more information.

Fall/winter zoo hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. For more information about Woodland Park Zoo, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#).

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