

## Slithering into the Lunar New Year *Zoo celebrates the Year of the Snake*

SEATTLE—Psssst! Woodland Park Zoo is slithering into the Lunar New Year—the Year of the Snake!



Lunar New Year is celebrated across the globe, but especially in East Asia, where traditions and interpretations are as unique as the many cultures that mark this special date. This year's Lunar New Year begins January 29.

In the Chinese zodiac, the snake represents wisdom, calm and transformation. The symbol of the snake in the Chinese zodiac is known to represent charm, intuition and deep thinking. This year is also an Earth snake, which means 2025 could be a year for growth and creativity. People born in a snake year are said to be mysterious, wise and sympathetic.

Woodland Park Zoo is home to 12 different species of snakes. Worldwide, there are more than 3,000 species of snakes with 150 of those species native to North America. Snakes are ecological powerhouses that encourage biodiversity and are often ecosystem stabilizers as both predator and prey.

In honor of the Year of the Snake the zoo is highlighting a couple of its scaly friends, two of which are female Timor pythons that recently arrived at the zoo and now live in Reptile Realm, the zoo's most newly renovated exhibit. Timor pythons are found in the forests and grasslands of southern Indonesia's islands—and listed as vulnerable due to demands on their native habitat.

Zoo guests can also see a male yellow anaconda in the zoo's Tropical Rain Forest. This species is near-threatened. One of the largest species in the world, these aquatic snakes make their home in floodplains, marshes and swamps in southern South America.

To learn more about the significance of snakes and what steps can be taken to protect them, visit the zoo's sensational [blog](#). Woodland Park Zoo's [Reptile Realm](#) is an excellent space for visitors to check out during the winter months. The new exhibit is sheltered from the cold and outdoor elements, allowing guests to view and learn about a variety of reptiles and amphibians comfortably.

Winter zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. daily. Accessibility: Information about accessibility and resources, one-to-one aides, sighted guides, mobility equipment rentals, and a sensory map and tools can be found at [www.zoo.org/access](http://www.zoo.org/access). ADA ramp access for Historic Carousel. For questions or to request disability accommodations for zoo programs or events, contact [zooinfo@zoo.org](mailto:zooinfo@zoo.org).

To learn more about Woodland Park Zoo or to become a zoo member, visit [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#).

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