

## **Explore Africa's lush jungles, lakes and dry savannahs during an expedition through Regenstein African Journey**

**What:** Lincoln Park Zoo's Regenstein African Journey is a fully immersive naturalistic environment that takes guests on an African journey of discovery. Filled with the sights and sounds of Africa, it replicates the natural homelands of two dozen African species from tropical rain forests to the dust and rock of dry thorn forests to the lakes of Great Rift Valley. It is home to some of the world's rarest creatures including black rhinos, wild dogs, dwarf crocodiles and pygmy hippos. Glimpse the giant webs of orb spiders, peak into the den of an armadillo, or simply enjoy the beauty of regal giraffes and doting lovebirds. An excursion through Regenstein African Journey is an educational adventure into the world of African wildlife conservation.

**Size:** 75,000-square-feet

**Opened:** 2003

**Cost:** \$23 million

**Featured wildlife:** Black rhinos, baringo giraffe, wild dogs, warthogs, ostrich, grant's gazelle, pygmy hippos, dwarf crocodiles, slender-tailed meerkats, armadillo, rock hyrax, klipspringer, black and white colobus, Egyptian geese, Hottentot teal, masked lovebird, Madagascar orb spiders and hissing cockroaches, tilapia and numerous species of African cichlids.

### **Noteworthy awards:**

- **Exhibit of the Year – 2005**  
Significant Achievement Honor – American Zoo and Aquarium Association
- **Best of 2003 Awards**  
Institutional Project of the Year – McGraw Hill/Midwest Construction Magazine
- **Merit Award – 2004**  
Finalist: Rehab Construction Category – Chicago Building Congress

### **Conservation Science Underway at African Journey and abroad:**

- **Serengeti EcoHealth Initiative (Tanzania):** Lincoln Park Zoo is leading a consortium of researchers and wildlife health experts in Serengeti National Park, Tanzania working to protect threatened African lions, wild dogs and other carnivores (as well as people and domestic dogs) through a vaccination campaign to prevent transmissible diseases, such as rabies and canine distemper virus (CDV). The need for this project began in 1993, when scientists found lions dying from CDV. The disease swept through the interior of the park, decimating the lion population and driving the park's resident African wild dogs to extinction. Lincoln

Park Zoo's on-going program offers free vaccinations throughout the year to thousands of domestic dogs living in villages and communities near the national park in order to protect those communities and prevent disease from spreading to wildlife inside the park. If this conservation action had not been taken quickly, the Serengeti ecosystem could have been forever changed.

- **Reproductive health and well-being research:** Scientists from the zoo's Davee Center for Epidemiology and Endocrinology, study wildlife well-being and assist with reproductive efforts of black rhinos, pygmy hippos and other endangered species. By using non-invasive techniques of extracting hormones from fecal, urine and saliva samples, researchers can monitor stress levels and track reproductive cycles to ensure the animals have the best life and chances for reproductive success.
- **African Wild Dog Behavioral Monitoring Project:** African wild dogs are an endangered species – it is estimated there are only a few thousand left in the wild. Very few scientific studies have been conducted to better understand their behavior in zoos – information that will be valuable to better manage this complex species. Lincoln Park Zoo is currently conducting a behavioral monitoring study focusing on the general behavior and space use of our wild dog pack. Results of these data will assist AZA zoos in their efforts to conserve this species.
- **Species Survival Plans:** Many residents of Regenstein African Journey are a part of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's Species Survival Plans which coordinate conservation education and field conservation efforts for threatened and endangered species.