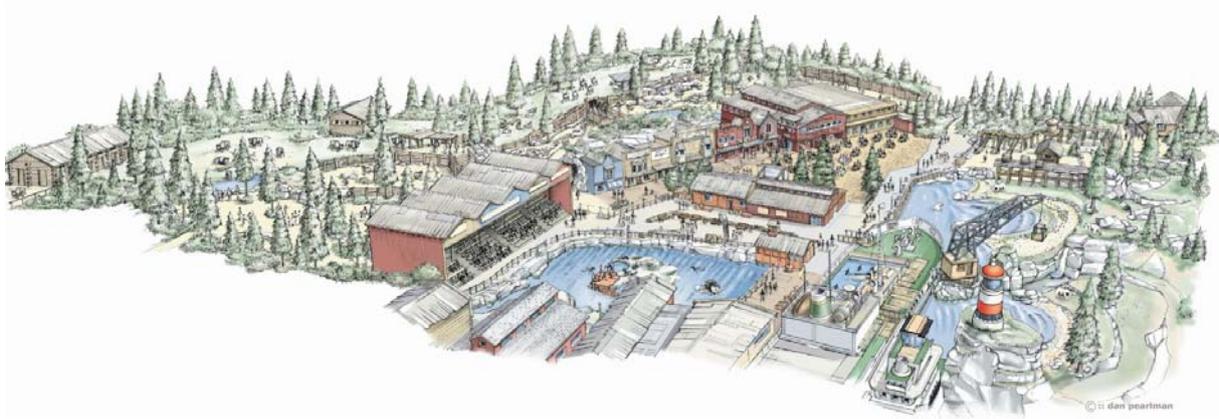
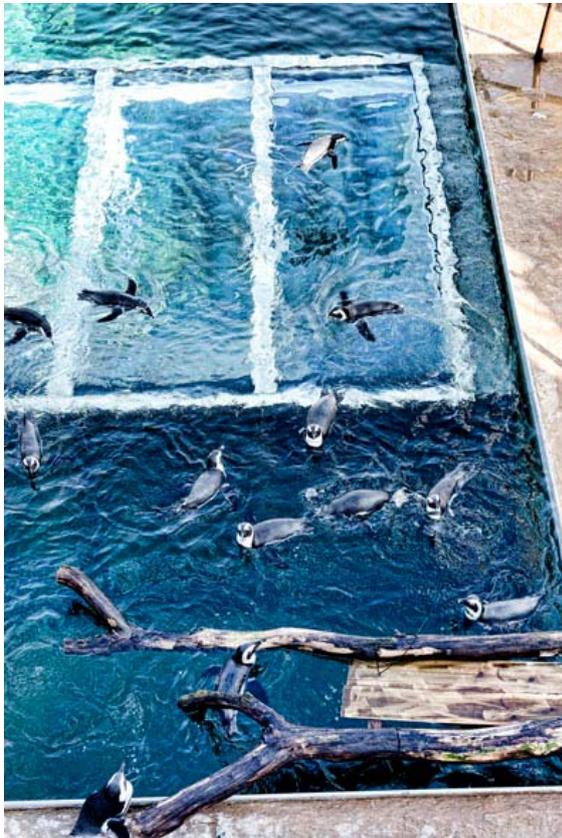


Penguin Exhibit at Yukon Bay Theme World | Hanover Adventure Zoo



In May 2010, Hanover Adventure Zoo opened its seventh theme world with Yukon Bay. At Yukon Bay, wolves, caribou, bison and prairie dogs are presented in the rugged wilderness of Canada. Here, visitors come eye to eye with polar bears, fur seals, sea lions and grey seals in an enormous saltwater harbour basin equipped with a wave generator. All enclosures can be viewed from a variety of angles. The Penguin Exhibit makes up part of the Yukon Bay theme world encompassing an overall surface area of approximately 26,500 sq. metres.

In order to explain how the African penguin fits within the Nordic themed world of Yukon Bay, a short background story is told: the captain of the Yukon Queen once made a journey with his freighter from South Africa with a cargo of animals on board: the African penguins. When he ran aground in the harbour, he decided to make the best out of the situation and converted his ship into the 'world's northernmost zoo for penguins.'



The Penguins have access to approximately 130 sq. metres of land area and approximately 80 sq. metres of water area. The saltwater pool is approximately three metres deep and contains approximately 250 cubic metres of constantly circulated, moving water.

In addition to the breeding niches inside the building, the land section also provides numerous possibilities for shelter and breeding in the form of an overturned rowboat wreck or specially prepared, wooden barrels. The animals also have access to sections with sand and gravel. Animals pick up and move around pebbles for building nests. Part of the enclosure is planted with saltwater-tolerant trees and grasses in order to lend the ship surroundings a natural character and provide the animals structure.

Wooden ramps make it easy for the animals to enter the water. A large rock formation gives structure to the underwater area. Activities are designed to provide the animals with behavioural enrichment, for example their food can be picked out of steel fish traps.

For hygiene and cleanliness, the ground surface of the enclosure is designed for a high-pressure water cleaner so that the concentrated animal excrement can be cleaned away daily.

Inside, caretakers can access the breeding nests of the penguins from the rear side for inspection at any time.



The penguins can be viewed from all angles through thirty-nine, over-sized, specially designed glass panes that are constantly sprayed to prevent salt build-up: from both sides of the water basin, on land or while diving.

The highlight is the glass tunnel inside the pool that allows visitors to view the speedy water birds from underneath almost like they're flying. And the view of the large feet of the pelicans from below, which share the enclosure with the penguins, also offers an out-of-the-ordinary perspective.

The basic visitor education concept for all animal enclosures at Yukon Bay centres around three components: unexpected proximity to the animals, dynamic signage and educational feeding demonstrations.

The penguin enclosure features elaborate, hand painted signage and panels that appeal especially to children and dynamically illustrate the penguin's way of life.



Water is the defining element of the entire Yukon Bay exhibit. Compared to the old exhibits, the water area of the penguin, seal and polar bear exhibits is 60% larger. Nevertheless, water usage for the exhibits has decreased 80%. Using sustainable technologies, 3,100 cubic metres of saltwater can be completely circulated within one to two hours. Speed-controlled pumps, large particle filters, protein skimmers, ozone disinfection, additional gravel bed filters with a UV-system, backwash water reclamation and saltwater replenishment with PH value control provide water quality suitable for fish stocks and underwater visibility of approximately fifteen metres.