

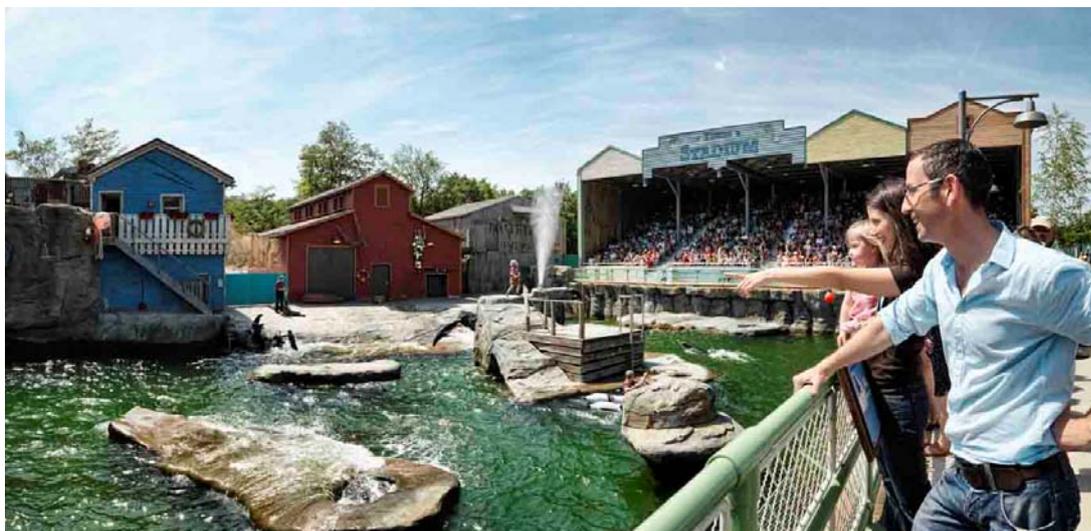
Seal, Fur Seal and Harbour Seal Exhibit at Yukon Bay Theme World | Hanover Adventure Zoo



The Seal, Fur Seal and Harbour Seal Exhibit makes up part of the Yukon Bay theme world encompassing an overall surface area of approximately 26,500 sq. metres. Opened to the public in May 2010, Yukon Bay is the seventh theme world at Hanover Adventure Zoo. 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.

Water is the defining element of the entire Yukon Bay exhibit. Compared to the old exhibits, the water area of the penguin, polar bear, seal, fur seal and harbour seal exhibits is 60% larger. Nevertheless, water usage for the exhibits has decreased 80%.

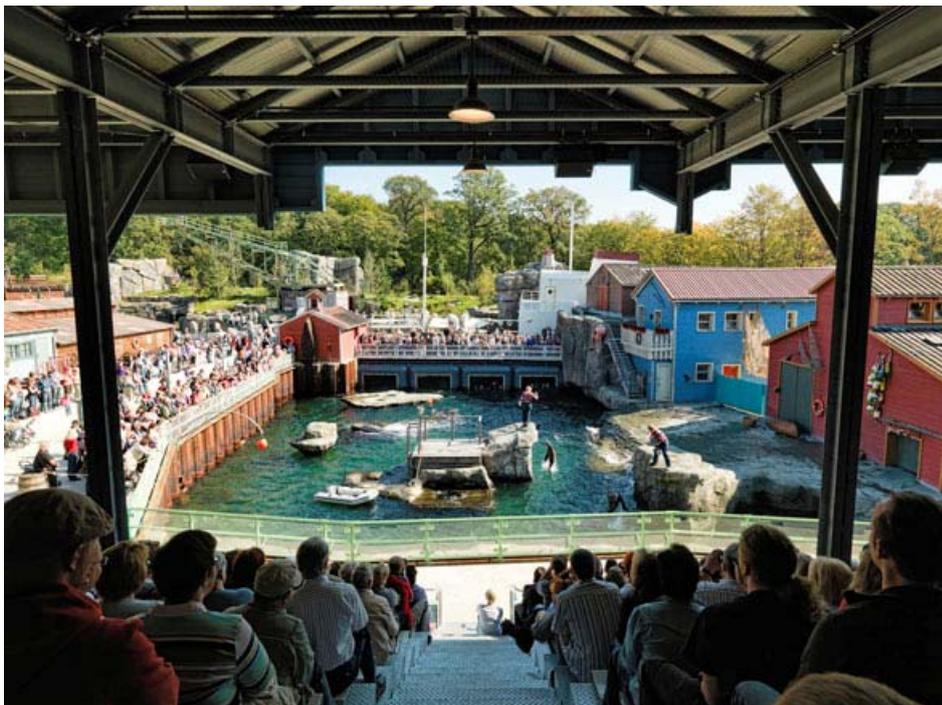
The fur seals, sea lions and grey seals share an enclosure. In the main enclosure, they have access to 280 sq. metres of total land area and over 500 sq. metres of saltwater area ranging in depth from 1.8 metres to 2.2 metres and a water volume of 1,100 cubic metres. In addition, there are two side enclosures totalling approximately 70 sq. metres as well as a roofed side pool. The stall building, caretaker and technical areas encompass 150 sq. metres.

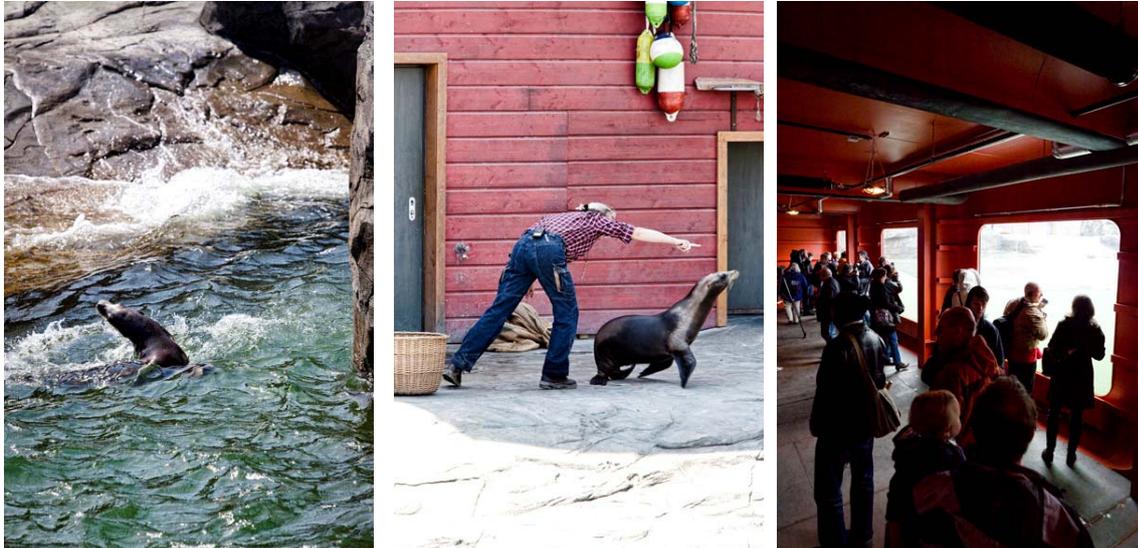




The grandstand seats up to 600 spectators. A feeding show takes place here twice daily and features Californian sea lions as the main actors. Daily up to 1,200 people watch the feeding from Yukon Stadium, the harbour wall or from the deck of the underwater station. From the rocky shoreline, caretakers reach the platform in the middle of the pool by boat where the feeding and show take place. A bald eagle is also included in the show and soars in big circles directly above the heads of viewers.

Six complex structures resembling rocky outcroppings with an overall surface area of approximately 100 sq. meters provide not only resting places for the seals, fur seals and harbour seals but also offers numerous vertical and horizontal openings for them to dive through. Thirty-centimetre high waves wash repeatedly over sections of the rocky outcroppings producing natural sprays of water via the fissures. The roughly 180 sq. metre land section provides plenty of space for lying around as well as smooth rock slides and a two metre high crag for diving. A rock ramp on shore provides a firm entry and exit point for young animals.





A wooden pontoon was designed as a relaxation area for the grey seals and can be anchored in various locations.

The enclosure is designed large enough to also accommodate walrus at a future date. The slide bar dimensions are also designed with this in mind.

Two inconspicuous side enclosures are located between the stall building and the main enclosure. Slide bars are used to move the animals from the stall boxes to the side enclosures. A series of slide bars is also used to move the animals into the main enclosure, or, during shows, the caretaker has the choice of using a network of doors. For maintenance purposes, a wheel loader can access the enclosure through three-metre wide gates.

A roofed side enclosure allows the animals to be separated and is used for training purposes. The stall consists of eight boxes that are linked together through an animal access corridor. Each box has a slide bar for conducting animals into the side enclosure, the animal access corridor, or into neighbouring stalls. Four stalls have been designed to accommodate walrus at a future date. One stall is equipped with a mobile scale and a confinement cage.

From the hull of the Yukon Bay Queen, spectators can watch the seals, sea lions, and grey seals up close through large glass panes. Visitors also have a view of the polar bear enclosure just a few metres away. The double-sloped position of the ship offers visitors various viewing angles as well as a wheelchair-suitable access route to the wreck.

The fur seal, sea lion, and grey seal exhibit is part of Yukon Bay's harbour landscape and functions zoologically and design-wise without immediate proximity to planted zones. Yukon Bay's overall planting design is based on the natural habitats of the animals and consists of a mix of coniferous trees, North American deciduous species as well as local varieties.



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 enclosure features elaborate, hand painted signage and panels that appeal especially to children and dynamically illustrate the seals', fur seals' and harbour seals' way of life.

The entire volume of water in the various Yukon Bay enclosures—3,100 cubic metres of saltwater—can be completely circulated within one to two hours. The following sustainable technologies are used: 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.

The exhibit also features stainless steel rings for anchoring boats in popular spots as well as mechanisms for tying down show elements. During show times, caretakers can activate a 'whale fountain'.