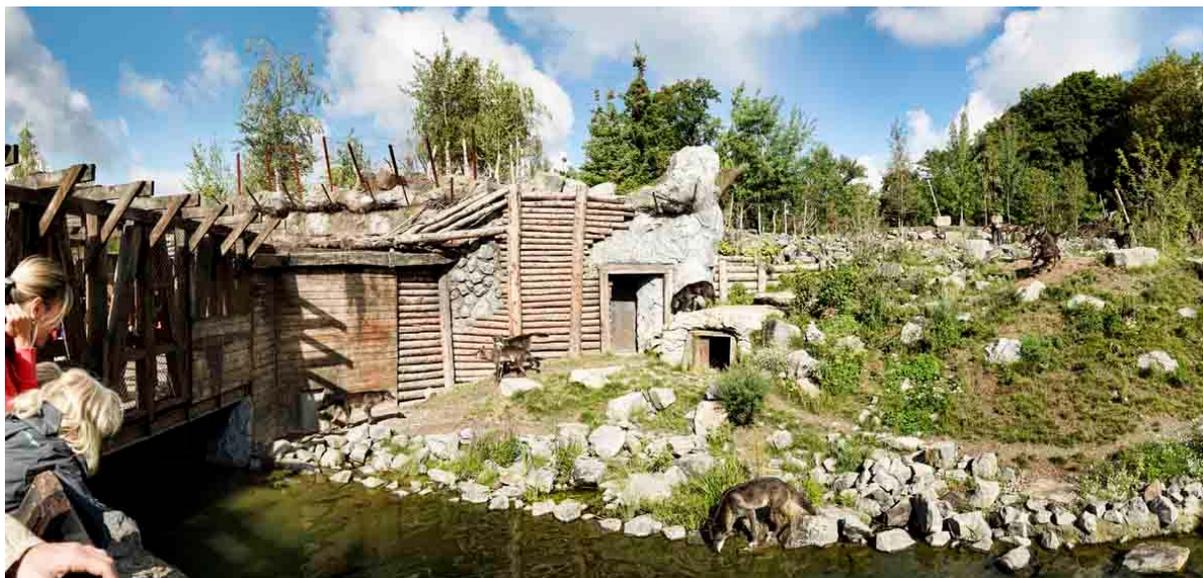


Wolf Exhibit at Yukon Bay Theme World | Hanover Adventure Zoo



The Wolf 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.

Visitors enter Yukon Bay through a dark mineshaft, arriving first at the wolf enclosure. Designed as an open, hilly landscape, it appears to merge with the existing woodland on the horizon. The view of caribou on the periphery also creates the sensation of a great expanse. A six metre-wide dry ditch invisible to viewers separates the caribou from the wolves, which nevertheless appear tantalizingly close. Beam walls, shaft entrances, wooden bridges and a mill wheel—all constructed in historically accurate style—transport visitors to a gold-miner setting in the Alaskan wilderness.





The Yukon Bay theme world is an experience that plays on all the senses. When moving through the landscape, the borders dissolve between visitors and zoo animals. On the one hand, various visual relationships create a feeling of open expanse and freedom, on the other the wolves are presented to visitors just meters away.

The wolf enclosure can be divided into three sections and encompasses an overall area of 1,235 sq. metres. There is also a 55 sq. metre side enclosure that is not visible to visitors which allows individual animals to be quarantined or separated from the pack.

The landscape of the enclosure is designed to resemble the wolf's natural Alaskan habitat and had over one and a half years to develop and mature before the opening of Yukon Bay. A stream meanders through the landscape dotted with wild shrubs. To emphasize the authentic look and feel, upright and horizontal deadwood was integrated into the vegetation.

The tree plantings consist of a mix of coniferous evergreens and deciduous trees with intense autumn coloration. Species were even selected that are native to the timber wolf's natural habitat and which adapt well to local conditions as well as native species with a similar habitat.





The ravine-like wolf enclosure consists of a natural ground surface planted with trees, grasses, herbs and wild shrubs. Given the concentrated nature of wolf urine, robust nitrogen-compatible trees were selected or their trunks were protected from direct contact. All necessary tree removals were offset throughout the overall Yukon Bay area.

The topology of the area is designed to provide the animals a rich variety of stimuli. From elevated vantage points, the inquisitive wolves can watch the bison and caribou living in neighbouring enclosures. In the valley, a broad ditch filled with water and an easily passable stream provide variety. Sand baths, shelters, moulded litter dens, heated rocks and tree clusters offer the animals variation and protection.

The wolf enclosure is only accessible through gates and safety locking mechanisms. When needed, a wheel loader can be driven through three-metre wide access gates. A three-metre high fence with electric wire also offers additional protection. Video cameras installed inside the litter dens make it possible to follow the birth and rearing of the young animals.

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