

distinct habitats, it will be the largest black bear exhibit in an accredited zoo east of the Mississippi. In the "Natural Habitat," the bears will be able to lounge on a recreated railroad trestle or splash in the water beneath it. The shade on the porch of an old style Florida shack welcomes the bears while guests safely look on through 2" thick glass from inside the shack. The "Backyard Habitat" also features glass viewing through a lanai overlooking a simulated suburban Florida backyard. Through a daily Meet the Keeper Series and interpretive graphics, visitors will both have the opportunity to learn basic safety tips if a bear is encountered in the wild and how to avoid attracting them to their yard. They will also gain a deeper appreciation of the bears' crucial role in the local environment.

Why black bears? Although some American black bear populations are stable in the nation, Florida's bears have been designated as a threatened species. As one of just over 200 zoos in the United States that has achieved the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' high accreditation standards, Naples Zoo plays a global role in visitor education and conservation. By focusing on Florida Black Bears, Naples Zoo continues its commitment to educating visitors about the world's threatened species including those found here at home.

Naples Zoo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization cooperating in conservation programs both in and outside the wild for endangered species. Daily presentations include Alligator Bay Feeding, Meet the Keeper Series, Snake Sunbathing, along with two premiere presentations: Planet Predator and Serpents: Fangs & Fiction. Both of these feature shows take place in the Safari Canyon Theater where guests see live animals from feline predators to venomous snakes along with exciting video footage. And one of the zoo's most popular activities is the Primate Expedition Cruise where guests embark on a guided cruise through islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes.

The all day pay-one-price ticket includes admission to both the nationally accredited zoo and historic garden along with all shows, tours, exhibits, and the boat ride. (\$19.95 adults age 13+/ \$11.95 children 3 to 12, under 3 free. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age). **Zoo memberships and discount tickets are also available online at www.napleszoo.org.** Visitors enjoy healthy meals at the SUBWAY® Cafe and shop for wild gifts at tame prices in The ZOO Gift Shop. Naples Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:00 to 5:00 with the last ticket sold at 4:00 and is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from the Coastland Center mall in the heart of Naples. To learn more, click www.napleszoo.org or call (239) 262-5409.

Print Quality Image of South African Lion available for immediate download at www.napleszoo.org/press

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www.napleszoo.org
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