

# Karachi Safari Park

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**Karachi Safari Park** (Urdu: کراچی سفاری پارک), opened in 1970, is a public funded 'family-only' **safari park** covering an area of 148 acres (0.60 km<sup>2</sup>), located in **Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan**. It has a zoo, geared with viewing facilities like a **chairlift** and safari tracks, as well as two natural lakes. A privately funded amusement park, **Go Aish**, is located in the Safari Park's vicinity.



## History :

Karachi Safari Park was inaugurated in 1970 by Lieutenant General Atiq-ur-Rehman.<sup>[2]</sup> It was an independent project of the then **Karachi Municipal Corporation**. The creation of an independent zoo, safari and aquarium department followed in 1995. Karachi Safari Park is now an independent wing of the Community Development Department of **City District Government of Karachi** (defunct) and has been designated as a 'family park'.

## Attractions :

- **Swan lake:** A natural lake is located inside the safari park featuring a **pagoda** style sitting place.
- **Chairlift:** The 10 minutes long **chairlift** ride was set up at a cost of **US\$ 2 million** and was inaugurated by the Karachi City Nazim **Syed Mustafa Kamal** on March 8, 2006.
- **Go Aish:** A private theme park featuring **ropes course, paintball, quad biking, indoor climbing** and a **mini golf** course.



- **Elephant enclave:** An enclave of about 65,000 square including a bathing space and resting area for the elephants has been constructed in the park for the joy of visitors and the elephants.<sup>[5]</sup>
- **Kashmir Point:** **Kashmir Point** is one of the newly built

- picnic spots in Safari Park. It was inaugurated by the Mayor of Karachi, Mr. **Wasim Akhter**. The scenic view from this picnic spot resembles the valleys of Kashmir, which is a rare sight in Karachi.

## **Future Project :**

- **Aviary:** In June 2012, administrator of **KMC**, Muhammad Hussain Syed, told *The Nation* (Pakistani newspaper) that the country's biggest **aviary** was being constructed speedily inside the safari park.
- **Boating:** In September 2012, it was announced that **Pedalo** boating would be introduced in the lake.
- **Camping site:** A 300 acres of scouting land and camping area was also reported to be under development in October 2012.
- **Museum:** A 3,000 yards expense will be used by **Karachi Municipal Corporation** to develop a unique museum for the endangered birds in Safari Park, in accordance with the International Standards. This move will help raise awareness about the ongoing extinction alert for rare bird species.

## **General overview of a safari park :**

The main attractions are frequently large animals from **Africa** which people can see in wildlife reserves such as: **giraffes, lions** (including **white lions**), **white rhinos, African bush elephants, hippopotamuses, zebras, ostriches, lesser and greater flamingos, ground hornbills, guineafowl, African buffaloes**, sometimes **dromedary camels, great white and pink-backed pelicans, African sacred ibises, Ankole cattle, cheetahs, leopards, hyenas, chimpanzees, baboons, African wild dogs, Barbary sheep, crowned cranes, Egyptian geese, saddle-billed, yellow-billed and marabou storks, Nile crocodiles** (in a side paddock), **Nubian ibexes**, and many **antelope** species including- **wildebeest, hartebeest, topi, gazelles, elands, lechwe, addaxes, oryxes, bongos, kudu, nyalas, impalas, springbok, blesbok, sitatunga, duikers, waterbucks, sable antelopes**, and **roan antelopes**, just to name a few.

Also in the reserves there are animals that are not from Africa: **Asian** species include: **Asian elephants, Indian and Sumatran rhinoceroses, gaur, water buffaloes, nilgais, blackbucks, banteng, markhor, Malayan tapirs, wild asses, sambar deer, Indian hog deer, yaks, gibbons, tigers** (including **white tigers**), **Asian black bears, Eld's deer, babirusas, chital, dholes, barasinghas, painted storks, peafowl**, and **Bactrian camels**; **North American** species include: **American black bears, brown bears, wolves** (including **Arctic wolves**), **American bison, elk**, and **white-tailed deer**; **South American** species include: **llamas, alpacas, jaguars, capybaras, anteaters, South American tapirs, rheas, and black-necked swans**; **Australian** species include **kangaroos, wallabies, emus**, and **black swans**; **European** species include: **European bison, Eurasian wolves, mute swans, fallow deer, red deer**, and **moose**.

Most safari parks have a "walk-around" area with animals too small or too dangerous to roam freely in the reserves, like: small birds, **squirrel monkeys, penguins, marmosets, tamarins, mongooses, meerkats, lemurs, gorillas, reptiles, ho**

rnills, red pandas, snow leopards, otters and warthogs. Some also have: children's zoos, aquariums, butterfly houses and reptile and insect houses. Besides animals, in the walk-around area, there are public facilities like toilets, snack bars and cafés, play areas and sometimes amusement rides. There can be walk-through exhibits with animals like kangaroos, lemurs and wallabies. The Knowsley Safari in England keeps Siberian tigers and giraffes in their walking area.

Safari parks often have other associated tourist attractions: golf courses, carnival rides, cafés/restaurants, rideable miniature railways, boat trips to see aquatic animals like sea lions, life-sized recreations of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals, plant mazes, playgrounds, monorails, cable cars and gift shops. These are commonly found in the walk-around area. On river safari areas, there may be islands with primates; Longleat keeps gorillas and black-and-white colobus on their islands, which are used to house chimpanzees and siamangs; African Lion Safari in Canada has black-and-white ruffed lemurs, ring-tailed lemurs, lar gibbons, siamangs, Colombian spider monkeys, Geoffroy's spider monkeys, pink-backed pelicans and black swans in the waters.

## **History & List of Park :**

The predecessor of safari parks is Africa U.S.A. Park (1953–1961) in Florida.

The first lion drive-through opened in 1963 in Tama Zoological Park in Tokyo. In double-glazed buses, visitors made a tour through a one-hectare enclosure with twelve African lions.

The first drive-through safari park outside of Africa opened in 1966 at Longleat in Wiltshire, England. Longleat, Windsor, Woburn and arguably the whole concept of safari parks were the brainchild of Jimmy Chipperfield (1912–1990), former co-director of Chipperfield's Circus, although a similar concept is explored as a plot device in Angus Wilson's

"The Old Men at the Zoo" which was

published five years before Chipperfield set up

Longleat.<sup>[4]</sup> Longleat's Marquess of Bath agreed to



Chipperfield's proposition to fence off 40 hectares (100 acres) of his vast Wiltshire estate to house 50 lions. Knowsley, the Earl of Derby's estate outside Liverpool, and the Duke of Bedford's Woburn estate in Bedfordshire both established their own safari parks with Chipperfield's partnership. Another circus family, the Smart Brothers, joined the safari park business by opening a park at Windsor for visitors from London. The former Windsor Safari Park was in Berkshire, England, but closed in 1992 and has since been made into a Legoland theme park. There is also Chipperfield's "Scotland Safari Park" established on Baronet Sir John Muir's estate at Blair Drummond near Stirling, and the American-run "West Midland Safari and Leisure Park" near Birmingham. One park, along with Jimmy Chipperfield at Lambton Castle in North East England, has closed.

Between 1967 and **1974**, **Lion Country Safari**, Inc. opened 6 animal parks, one near each of the following American cities: **West Palm Beach, Florida**; **Los Angeles, California**; **Grand Prairie, Texas**; **Atlanta, Georgia**; **Cincinnati, Ohio**, and **Richmond, Virginia**. The first park, in South Florida, is the only **Lion Country Safari** still in operation.

**Royal Burgers' Zoo** at **Arnhem**, opened a "safari park" in 1968 within a traditional **zoo**. In 1995, Burgers' Safari modified this to a walking safari with a 250-metre (820 ft) **boardwalk**. Another safari park in the Netherlands is **Safaripark Beekse Bergen**.

Most safari parks were established in a short period of ten years, between 1966 and 1975.

- **Africa**
  - **Egypt:** **Alexandria** (*Africa Safari Park*, 2004)
- **Americas**
  - **Brazil:** **São Paulo** (**Zoo Safári**, 2001 - this park was formerly known as Simba Safari from 1972 to 2001)
  - **Canada:**
    - Ontario: **Hamilton** (**African Lion Safari**, 1969)
    - Quebec: **Hemmingford** (**Parc Safari**, 1972), **Montebello** (**Parc Omega**, 1985) **Chile:** **Rancagua** (**Safari Park Rancagua**, 2009)
    - **Guatemala:** **Escuintla** (**Auto\_Safari\_Chapin**, 1980)
  - **Mexico:**
    - **Amacuzac** (**Zoofari**, 1984)
    - **Puebla** (**Africam\_Safari**, 1972)
  - **Puerto Rico:** **Vega Alta** (*Safari Park*, 1970). The name of the park was simply "Safari Park".<sup>[5]</sup>
  - **United States:**
    - Arizona: **Camp Verde** (**Out\_of\_Africa\_Wildlife\_Park**, 1988)
    - Arkansas: **Gentry** (**Wild Wilderness Drive-Through Safari**, 1970)
    - California: **Escondido** (**San Diego Zoo Safari Park**, formerly *San Diego Wild Animal Park*, 1972)
    - Florida: **Loxahatchee** (**Lion Country Safari**, 1967)
    - Georgia: **Pine Mountain** (**Wild Animal Safari**, 1991)
    - Louisiana: **Epps** (**High Delta Safari Park**)
    - Maryland: **Largo** (*The Largo Wildlife Preserve*, 1973–1978, now the site of **Six Flags America**)
    - Nebraska: **Ashland** (**Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari**)
    - New Jersey: **Jackson Township** (*Great Adventure*, 1974, now the site of **Six Flags Great Adventure & Wild Safari**), **West Milford** ("Warner Brothers Jungle Habitat", 1972–1976)
    - Ohio: **Port Clinton** (**African Safari Wildlife Park**, 1973), **Mason** (*Lion Country Safari* at **Kings Island**, 1974–1993)
    - Oregon: **Winston** (**Wildlife Safari**, 1973)
    - Texas: **Grand Prairie** (**Lion Country Safari**, 1971–1992), **San Antonio** (**Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch**, 1984), **Glen Rose** (**Fossil Rim Wildlife Ranch**, 1984), (**Texas Safari Park**, 2023)
    - Virginia: **Doswell** (*Lion Country Safari* at **Kings\_Dominion**, 1974–1993), **Natural Bridge** (**Virginia Safari Park**, 2000)
- **Asia :**
  - **Bangladesh:** **Gazipur** (**Bangabandhu\_Sheikh\_Mujib\_Safari\_Park**, 2013), **Cox's Bazar** (**Dulahazara Safari Park**, 1999)

- **China:** [Shenzhen](#) (*Safari Park*, 1993), [Shanghai](#) (*Wild Animal Park*, 1995), [Qinhuangdao](#) ([Qinhuangdao Wildlife Park](#), 1995), [Guangzhou](#) (*Xiangjiang Safari Park*, 1997), [Jinan](#) (*Safari Park*, 1999), [Badaling](#) (*Safari World*, 2001)
- **India:** [Etawah](#) ([Etawah Safari Park](#), formerly *Lion Safari Etawah*, 2018), [Rajgir](#) ([Rajgir Zoo Safari](#), 2022)
- **Indonesia:** [Taman Safari](#), with three locations in [Bogor](#), [Mount Arjuno](#) and [Bali](#) (in Bali includes [Marine Park](#))
- **Japan:** [Miyazaki](#) ([Phoenix Zoo](#), 1975), **Usa** ([Kyushu Natural Animal Park](#) [African Safari](#), 1976), [Mine](#) ([Akiyoshidai Safari Land](#), 1977), [Tomioka](#) ([Gunma Safari Park](#), 1979), [Susono](#) ([Fuji Safari Park](#), 1980), [Himeji](#) ([Central Park](#), 1984)
- **Malaysia:** [Alor Gajah](#) ([A'Famosa Resort](#), 2001), [Gambang](#) ([Bukit Gambang Safari Park](#))
- **Pakistan:** [Lahore](#) ([Lahore Zoo Safari](#), 2009, formerly *Lahore Wildlife Park*, 1982)
- **Philippines:** [Busuanga](#) ([Calauit Safari Park](#), 1975), [Morong](#) ([Zoobic Safari](#), 2003), [Carmen](#) ([Cebu Safari and Adventure Park](#), 2018)
- **Singapore:** ([Night Safari](#), 1994)
- **Taiwan:** [Guanxi](#) ([Leofoo Village Theme Park](#))
- **Thailand:** [Bangkok](#) ([Safari World](#), 1988)
- **United Arab Emirates:** [Dubai](#) ([Dubai Safari Park](#), 12 December 2017)

## **References :**

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