

Expedition Madagascar

Construction began: May 2008

Opened: May 2010

Architect: John Armknecht of ASD Stanley J. How Architects

Contractors: Kiewit Construction

Cost: \$10.5 million

Expedition Madagascar

Expedition Madagascar is located along the middle lagoon between Hubbard Gorilla Valley and the Garden of the Senses. The 300 foot long building is nestled in the hillside featuring some of Madagascar's most unusual animals. The main building is over 17,000 square feet which includes holding areas for the lemurs.

Fourteen indoor exhibits house a wide array of species including fish, reptiles, small mammals, birds and of course, lemurs. The final indoor exhibit, before exiting the building, is a greenhouse that highlights another linkage between Omaha's Zoo and Madagascar.



Upon exiting the building, visitors see four outdoor exhibits. The first is a 1,050 square foot fossa exhibit. Across from the fossa, is a walkway that winds for nearly 250 feet. The second exhibit is a 1,750 square foot island and contains a group of ring-tailed lemurs living among man-made Baobab trees. The third display is a 1,600 square foot net-covered exhibit featuring Coquerel's Sifaka leaping among the vertical branches at eye level. Continuing on the walkway, visitors pass through a double door entry and walk amongst a troop of ruffed lemurs. The

fourth 6,700 square foot netted exhibit features man-made trees linked by vines allowing visitors to photograph these animals without a net or glass obstruction.

Diversity Hot-Spot

Expedition Madagascar gives the visitors of Omaha's Zoo a chance to learn more about an area of the world that is considered one of the top hotspots for biodiversity because it is home to the largest number of endemic, only found in this country, plant and animal species. The Texas-sized island has a large number of critically endangered species due to habitat loss and hunting. Throughout the building, each exhibit is linked to ongoing projects in Madagascar. There is also education information on the conservation efforts the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership has been active in since 1998. Expedition Madagascar is Omaha Zoo's way to better acquaint visitors with one of the premier conservation partnerships in the world.