



News from Newquay Zoo

For immediate release: Tuesday 15 July 2025

PRESS RELEASE: Zoo visitors can now travel the world without leaving Cornwall thanks to mind-blowing new VR experience



Newquay Zoo's incredible new virtual reality adventure lets you explore the rainforest with sloths and swim with blue whales - all for a fiver!

Zoo-goers are in for a treat this summer as Newquay Zoo unveils its game-changing virtual reality experience that'll transport you across the globe in minutes. The Cornwall attraction has teamed up with Wild Immersion to launch an incredible VR adventure that lets visitors come face-to-face with wildlife in their natural habitats - without stepping foot outside the county.

From 26 July to 21 September, visitors can strap on a headset and find themselves getting up close and personal with sloths in the rainforest canopy, diving into the ocean with blue whales and sea turtles or exploring the frozen arctic alongside a pack of wolves.

The jaw-dropping 360-degree experience uses real wildlife footage - not computer graphics - captured in actual habitats around the world, complete with authentic sounds and a musical score that'll make your heart soar.

Natalie Timms, Visitor Experience and Retail Manager at Newquay Zoo commented: "It's absolutely mind-blowing. One minute you're in Cornwall, the next you're in the forest with lemurs and chimpanzee or swimming with a pod of dolphins. It's like nothing we've ever offered before."

The best part? After your virtual safari, you can step outside and see the real deal - creating an incredible connection between the digital world and actual conservation work happening at the zoo.

Each 15-minute session packs in about 10 minutes of pure VR magic, with videos changing weekly so you'll never get bored. Groups are kept small at just 8 people, making it feel intimate and special.

The experience runs from 10:15am to 4:00pm daily (with a lunch break from 1:15-2:00pm) at the Pavillion next to the Red Pandas. At just £5 on top of your zoo entry, it's a bargain for what could be the adventure of a lifetime. The experience is open to anyone aged 6 and over, and it's fully accessible for wheelchair users.

With 160 spots available each day across 20 sessions, the zoo advises people to book ahead to avoid disappointment.

Natalie Timms continued:

“No doubt this is going to be hugely popular with regulars and tourists alike. We recommend booking tickets online in advance where possible. You could try your luck on the day at the Pavillion, but don't say we didn't warn you if it's sold out!”

The zoo's pulling out all the stops with an exclusive preview for its members on Sunday 20 July, with tickets going live this week.

It's clear Newquay Zoo is serious about giving visitors something special - and this cutting-edge tech experience might just be the most exciting thing to hit Cornwall all summer. Book now at newquayzoo.org.uk

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Notes to editors:

Visitor information

Newquay Zoo admission pricing, including Gift Aid donation:

- VR Experience; £5.00
- Adults; £19.00
- Children (3-15); £14.25
- Children (1-2); £2.75
- Children under 12 months; Free
- Carer accompanying a paying guest; Free
- Group rates; From £9.75 per person
- Opening hours: Daily from 10am (closing times vary seasonally - current closing time 5.00pm, last admissions 4.00pm)
- Parking available in the Cornwall Council carpark adjacent to Newquay Zoo
- Full accessibility
- On-site refreshments and retail facilities

Visitors can book tickets in advance online. Each visit supports Wild Planet Trust's vital conservation work both in the UK and overseas. Gift Aid declarations on ticket purchases provide additional funding at no extra cost to visitors. To book tickets, or learn more about how you can support Newquay Zoo, please visit newquayzoo.org.uk

About Newquay Zoo

Wild Planet Trust is a conservation charity encompassing Paignton Zoo, Newquay Zoo and three nature reserves - Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve, Primley Park and Clennon Gorge.

Newquay Zoo, established in 1969, is Cornwall's leading wildlife attraction, set within 13 acres of lush, landscaped grounds. The zoo attracts over 140,000 visitors annually

and is home to more than 1,000 animals representing over 120 species from around the world. With a focus on conservation and education, Newquay Zoo is actively involved in breeding programmes for endangered species and plays a vital role in the protection of wildlife both locally and globally. The zoo also boasts a range of exciting animal encounters and experiences that allow visitors to learn about the vital work being done to safeguard endangered species.

The Trust leads vital conservation and research projects in the UK and internationally, focusing on animal behaviour, nutrition, enrichment and ecology. Our mission is to Help Halt Species Decline by protecting endangered species and preserving biodiversity for future generations.

Both Paignton and Newquay Zoos are members of the British & Irish Association of Zoos & Aquariums (BIAZA), a prestigious network of over 100 leading zoos and aquariums committed to conservation, education and scientific research. Paignton Zoo is also a member of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), participating in vital European breeding programmes.

Registered charity numbers: Wild Planet Trust 306622, Paignton Zoo and Newquay Zoo 300923

Registered offices: Paignton Zoo, Totnes Road, Paignton, Devon, TQ4 7EU. Newquay Zoo, Trenance Gardens, Newquay, Cornwall, TR7 2LZ.

All media visits must be pre-arranged with the Press Office. Photography and filming guidelines are available upon request.

For media enquiries or interview requests, please contact:

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Media Resources

High-resolution images available upon request.

Connect With Us

- Website: newquayzoo.org.uk
- Wild Planet Trust: wildplanettrust.org.uk
- Social Media: @NewquayZoo (Facebook, Instagram)
- @WildPlanetTrust (Twitter/X, YouTube, LinkedIn)