



OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the ZooParc de Beauval

Saint-Aignan · From 39€

<https://zoobeauval.visit-tickets.com/en/> · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Paris Apartment to Global Icon

GOOGLE **4.7** ★★★★★ 98 187 reviews

TIQETS **4.8** ★★★★★ 2 335 reviews

The story of the ZooParc de Beauval begins not in a grand zoo, but in a modest **Parisian apartment**. In the early 1970s, Françoise Delord, an actress and passionate animal lover, received a pair of silver-beaked capuchins as a gift. Her collection grew rapidly, filling her home with birds until it became impossible to house them all. This personal passion sparked a journey that would eventually transform the landscape of French zoology, starting from a small ornithological park established in **1980** near Saint-Aignan.

By 1989, the project evolved significantly as Beauval welcomed its first mammals, including big cats and primates, transitioning from a bird sanctuary to a full-fledged zoo. A pivotal moment occurred in **1991** when the park acquired white tigers, Gorby and Raïssa, becoming the first in France to present leucistic big cats. This bold move attracted massive public attention, doubling visitor numbers overnight and establishing Beauval as a unique destination for rare species conservation and education.

The park continued to innovate, opening its first tropical greenhouse in 1992 to house orangutans and chimpanzees, followed by a vivarium for reptiles. Today, Beauval is renowned for its exceptional biodiversity, hosting approximately **35,000 animals** across 45 hectares. It stands as a leader in conservation, particularly for species like the koala, okapi, and Indian rhinoceros, offering habitats that mimic natural environments more closely than any other facility in Europe.

In 2017, Beauval achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first French park and only the fourth in the world to successfully breed giant pandas. This achievement cemented its reputation as a global reference for wildlife preservation. Under the direction of Rodolphe Delord, the son of the founder, the park continues to expand its commitment to biodiversity, blending family-friendly entertainment with serious scientific research and **global conservation efforts**.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the gates of ZooParc de Beauval feels less like entering a traditional zoo and more like embarking on a **journey around the world**. The layout is designed to transport visitors seamlessly between continents, from the misty heights of China to the sun-drenched savannas of Africa. The air is filled with the sounds of exotic birds and the gentle rustling of leaves, creating an immersive atmosphere that captivates both children and adults alike.

As you wander through the shaded pathways, the sheer scale of the park becomes apparent, yet it never feels overwhelming thanks to thoughtful design elements like **cooling misters** and ample rest areas. Each enclosure tells a story, inviting close observation without disturbing the animals. Whether watching a sea lion glide effortlessly through water or seeing a panda munch on bamboo, every moment offers a sense of wonder and connection to nature's majesty.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS

Loir-et-Cher • Direct road access from Saint-Aignan (D910).
Free parking included.

OPENING HOURS

Open daily from 9 AM until dusk. Hours vary by season.
Check show time slots.

PRICES

Child reduced rate based on age. Book online to benefit from the preferential rate.

VISIT DURATION

Plan for 2 days ideally to see everything calmly. An intense one-day visit is possible by following the express itinerary.

PHOTOS

Personal photography allowed everywhere except in specific marked areas. Drones are strictly prohibited within the park.

PUBLIC

The ultimate family destination. Child-friendly thanks to allowed strollers and accessible PMR spaces.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

**Car**

Lions Station (4 min) • The Elephants Station (5 min)

**Bike**

Gare des Lions (4 min) • La Gare des Éléphants (5 min)

**On foot**

Gare des Lions (6 min) • La Gare des Éléphants (8 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the ZooParc de Beauval ?



 Avenue du Blanc — 41110 Saint-Aignan

 47°14.859' N, 1°21.185' E



ORGANIZATION

Organization

Zone: Les Hauteurs de Chine

Begin your journey in this elevated zone dedicated to Asian fauna. Here, you will find the iconic giant pandas, snow leopards, and red pandas living in spacious enclosures that mimic their mountainous habitats. The cool climate encourages activity, making it ideal for early morning visits.

Zone: Tropical Greenhouses

Step into the warm, humid environment of the Great Ape and Tropical Gorilla Greenhouses. These indoor spaces house orangutans, chimpanzees, and gorillas, allowing for close-up views regardless of weather conditions. Don't miss the underwater viewing area for crocodiles and snakes.

Zone: African Savanna & Plains

Explore the vast open plains where giraffes, elephants, and rhinos roam freely. This expansive area offers panoramic views of African wildlife in a naturalistic setting. Watch for interactions between different species and enjoy the scenic landscapes perfect for photography.

ACCESSIBILITY



Accessibility for people with reduced mobility

PSH spaces reserved for parking and adapted paths within the park.



Families

Buggies allowed, play areas and shows suitable for young children.



Audio guide

French, English, Spanish

Must-sees

SELECTION

Unmissable Encounters & Rare Species

01

Les Hauteurs de Chine

Giant Pandas

Beauval is famous for being the first French park to breed giant pandas. Watching these beloved creatures play and eat bamboo is a highlight for families. Their presence underscores the park's commitment to **conservation breeding programs**.

💡 In 2017, Beauval achieved a global feat by successfully breeding pandas, becoming only the fourth facility worldwide to do so.

02

La Terre des Lions

White Tigers & Lions

These striking leucistic big cats are among the most photographed animals in the park. First introduced in the 1990s, they remain a symbol of Beauval's pioneering spirit. Observe their majestic movements and powerful presence in the **open-air enclosures**.

💡 The arrival of white tigers Gorby and Raïssa doubled visitor numbers overnight, putting Beauval on the map.

03

Bassin des Otaries

Sea Lion Odyssey Show

This interactive show features intelligent sea lions performing tricks and swimming gracefully. It is both entertaining and educational, highlighting the animals' agility and trainability. Best viewed from the front rows for an **immersive experience**.

💡 Shows run seasonally from March to November, so check schedules upon arrival to avoid missing out.

04

Serre des Grands Singes

Great Ape Greenhouse

Home to orangutans and chimpanzees, this greenhouse allows close observation of primate behavior. The complex structures encourage climbing and social interaction. Visit early in the morning when primates are most active due to cooler temperatures.

💡 Françoise Delord purchased a female chimpanzee from a circus in 1992, marking the start of significant primate conservation efforts.

05

Open-Air Theater

Masters of the Air Show

Witness raptors flying freely above your head in this breathtaking aerial display. Birds of prey demonstrate their hunting skills and grace against the sky. It is a magical moment that connects visitors directly with **avian majesty**.

💡 The show uses trained birds that fly without cages, creating a unique bond between handlers and animals.

06

Les Terres Rouges

Koalas & Australian Zone

Discover koalas, kangaroos, and wallabies in a habitat designed to replicate the Australian outback. Koalas are often seen sleeping in eucalyptus trees, offering a peaceful contrast to busier areas. This zone highlights **rare species** found nowhere else in France.

💡 Beauval was one of the first parks in Europe to successfully house and breed koalas, contributing to global conservation knowledge.

07

Asian Plains

Indian Rhinoceros

Observe these massive herbivores roaming in spacious enclosures. Indian rhinos are critically endangered, making their presence here vital for awareness. Look for mud baths and grazing behaviors typical of **wildlife adaptation**.

💡 Beauval hosts one of the few populations of Indian rhinos in France, playing a key role in European breeding programs.

08

Le Dôme Équatorial

Manatees & Equatorial Dome

Dive into the aquatic world of manatees and pygmy hippos in this tropical dome. The underwater viewing window provides a unique perspective on these gentle giants. It is a serene spot perfect for **relaxation and observation**.

💡 Manatees are slow-moving marine mammals that require specific water conditions, which Beauval meticulously maintains.

TIPS

Essential Tips for a Perfect Visit

TIMING

Arrive exactly at 9:00 AM opening time to avoid queues that can reach 30 minutes later. Animals are also more active in the cool morning hours.

BILLET

Book tickets online to benefit from reduced rates and secure entry during peak summer months. Consider the 2-day ticket for a stress-free experience.

PARCOURS

Download the official map before arriving to navigate the 45 hectares efficiently. Prioritize greenhouses and major plains early in your visit.

PHOTO

Personal photography is allowed everywhere except marked areas. Capture the best shots of pandas and big cats in the morning light.

PAUSE

Take advantage of shaded rest areas and cooling misters throughout the park. Bring water bottles to stay hydrated, especially in July.

ENFANTS

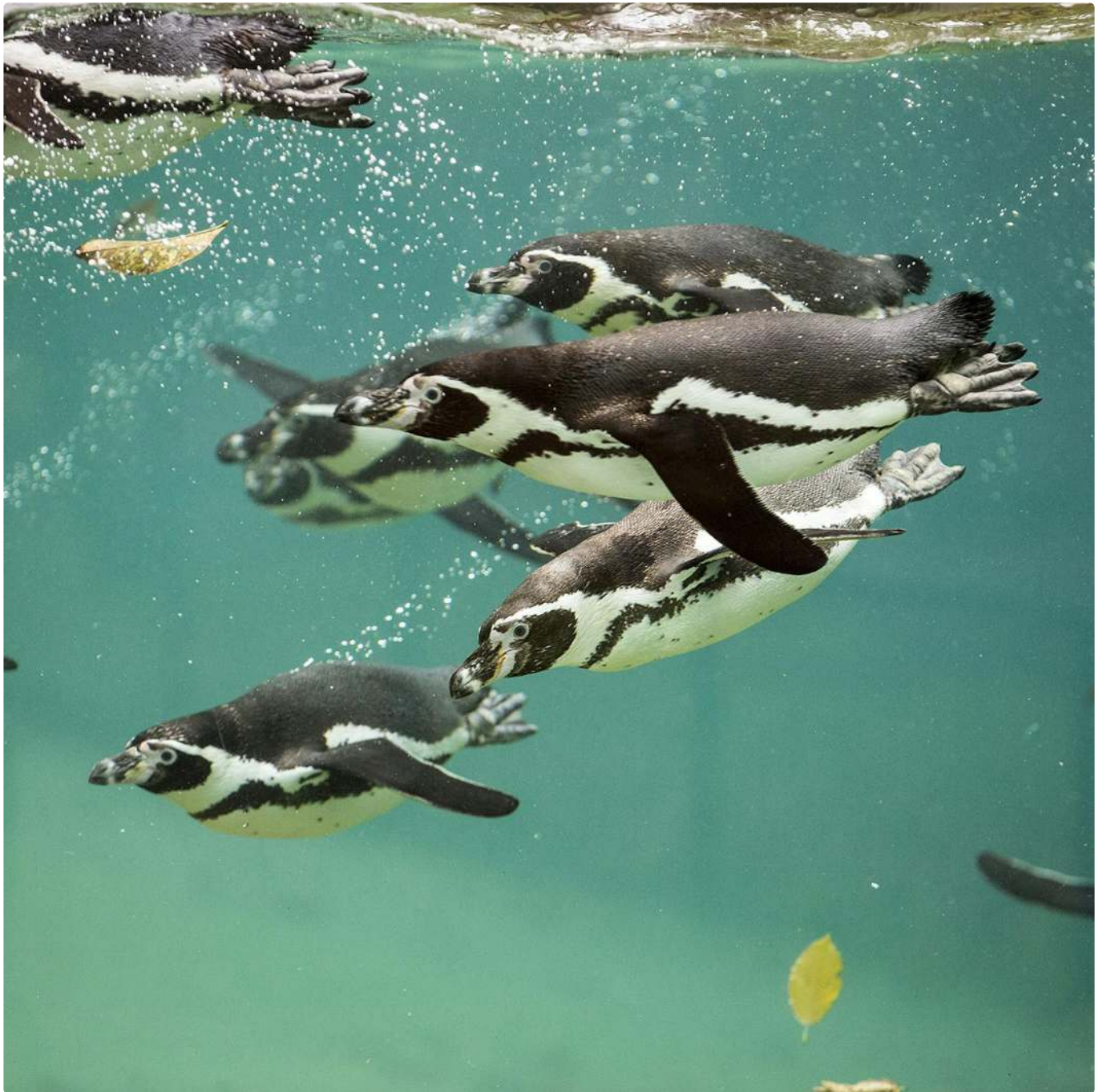
Strollers are allowed if equipped with handles and safety belts. Use free parking spots designated for families with young children.

AUDIOGUIDE

Audioguides are available in French, English, and Spanish. They provide valuable insights into animal behaviors and conservation efforts.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable walking shoes as you will cover significant distance. Dress in layers to adapt to varying temperatures inside greenhouses versus outdoors.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Which ticket to choose for a day at ZooParc de Beauval?

The 1-day ticket is sufficient if you follow the express route. To see everything without stress, opt for the 2-day ticket. The annual ZooPass is cost-effective from the 2nd visit onwards or for local residents.

Is it cheaper to book online than at the ticket office?

Yes, there is a reduced rate for online purchase according to official practical info. This also secures your entry and avoids queues during peak hours.

Are there combined ticket + hotel offers?

ZooParc offers significant hotel deals with possible packages. Check availability on the official website to combine themed accommodation and park access.

How long does it take to visit Beauval?

It is recommended to plan 2 days for a complete immersion. If you only have one day, arrive at opening and prioritize the greenhouses and major plains via the official map.

Are shows included in the ticket?

Yes, The Sea Lion Odyssey and Masters of the Air are included. However, they are only available from March to November. Check exact times at the entrance.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

First Panda Birth in France

In 2017, ZooParc de Beauval made history by achieving the first successful reproduction of giant pandas in France. This milestone placed it among only four facilities globally capable of such a feat, highlighting its expertise in **endangered species breeding**.

Origins in a Paris Apartment

The zoo started humbly in Françoise Delord's Paris apartment with just a few birds. By 1980, the collection had grown too large, prompting the move to Saint-Aignan and the creation of what is now a world-renowned **zoological institution**.

Pioneers of Leucistic Big Cats

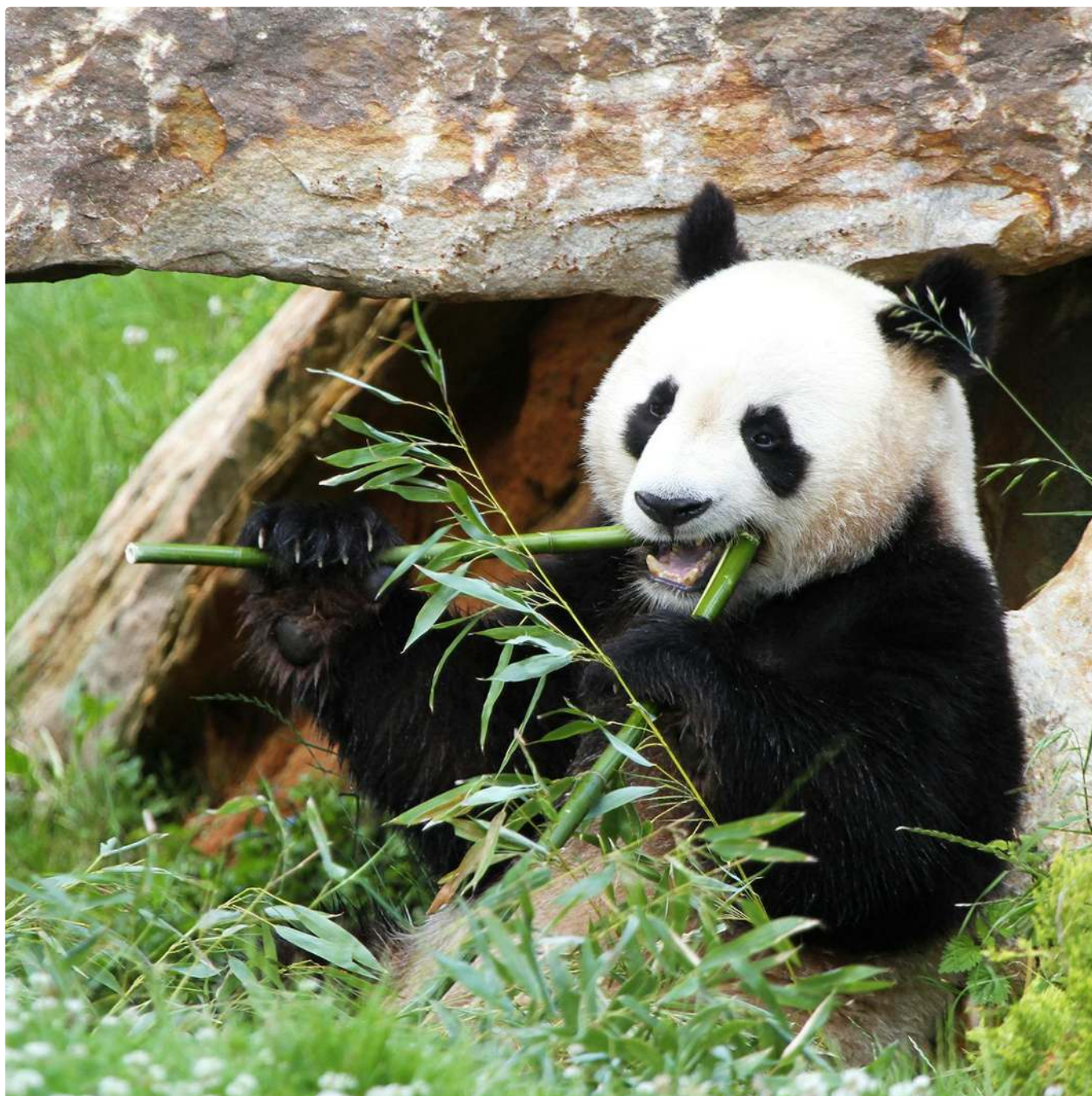
Beauval was the first French park to present white tigers and lions in the 1990s. These rare specimens drew massive crowds and helped establish the park's reputation for showcasing **unique genetic variations**.

Conservation Leader

With over 35,000 animals and 800 species, Beauval plays a crucial role in global biodiversity preservation. Its association, Beauval Nature, supports research and conservation projects worldwide, ensuring the survival of **threatened ecosystems**.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Beyond the zoo gates, the charming town of **Saint-Aignan** offers delightful extensions to your day. Start or end your visit with a peaceful stroll through the Saint-Aignan Floral Park, featuring beautiful rose gardens and botanical collections. For history enthusiasts, the Gothic Saint-Pierre Church nearby houses remarkable stained glass windows dating back centuries. Afterward, indulge in local cuisine at Restaurant Le Clos des Tilleuls, known for its traditional dishes like chevon. If time permits, combine your trip with a visit to the nearby Chambord Castle or Blois Fine Arts Museum for a complete cultural weekend in the Loire Valley.



A visit to ZooParc de Beauval is more than just a day out; it is an unforgettable encounter with the wild heart of our planet. From the playful antics of young gorillas to the serene gaze of a white tiger, each interaction leaves a lasting impression. This park reminds us of the beauty and fragility of life, inspiring a deeper respect for the natural world long after you leave its gates.