

**Miami Metrozoo**



# **EXPANSION '82**

**African Plains • Monorail Safari**



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## MONORAIL SAFARI

There's a new way to see Metrozoo -- from the air. The zoo's \$13 million monorail began carrying passengers this past December 4th. Gliding quietly along the 2.2-mile guideway, the sleek new trains provide a cool and comfortable ride and a beautiful view of Metrozoo's uncaged animals.

The sophisticated system is owned and operated by Universal Mobility, Inc. (UMI) of Salt Lake City, Utah, and The Budd Company of Troy, Michigan. An all-day pass, for \$2.75 plus tax, allows unlimited use of the air-conditioned monorail, which makes three station stops, so that it can be used for transportation within the park as well as for a complete guided tour.

"The monorail adds a new perspective on the zoo," comments Bob Yokel, Director of Metrozoo. "It offers a choice that's very important in a park as big as ours, enabling visitors to take the entire narrated tour for an overview and then get off at a station nearest those areas they find most interesting."

Following along the same path as the zoo's walkways, the elevated trains allow a view of the back areas and animal holding pens that are

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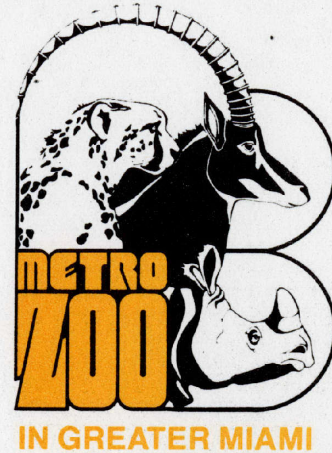
camouflaged from view on the ground by elaborate rockwork and landscaping. Seen from the ground, Metrozoo can create an illusion of animals living wild in their natural habitats. From the air, however, one can see how the whole zoo works -- how the moats have been designed, how the animals are moved from one area to another, and all the behind-the-scenes activity.

The narrative for the guided tour, prepared by consultants from the Minnesota Zoo, whose monorail, also built by UMI, has been running for three years, covers many facets of Metrozoo's animals, history and design. The tour includes a preview of future years' expansions, currently under construction. "With public funding what it is today," Yokel remarks, "zoos themselves may become as endangered as the species they house. The opportunity of seeing a new zoo in the process of being built may never come again."

Concludes Yokel: "The monorail is a vital step in the evolution of Metrozoo, providing both transportation and a unique way of seeing the zoo that wasn't possible before."

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## AFRICAN PLAINS

The largest herds of grazing wild animals in the world can be found on the plains of the Serengeti in east Africa. Giraffes, zebras, ostriches and countless species of antelope live together in these grasslands. The flat landscape, dotted with acacia trees, sudden rock formations, and the vast migrating herds, is an unforgettable sight -- almost the quintessential Africa. Now the African Plains have come to Miami.

The newest addition in the continued development of Metrozoo is the 25-acre African Plains area, with its central exhibit a two-acre grassy island on which roam giraffes, zebras, ostriches and elands. The rockwork that frames the island is modelled after the rocks of the Serengeti and the landscaping is representative of the plains area as well.

Four companion exhibits in the section display other African antelopes: impala, dik-dik, bontebok and the very rare bongo. Sharing paddocks with these antelopes are several species of large African birds, including Stanley cranes, kori bustards, Abyssinian blue-winged geese, and East African crowned cranes.

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Metrozoo's unique master design is based on a zoogeographic organization, which means that the animals are grouped according to where they come from in the wild, and the rockwork and landscaping of each exhibit also are designed to portray that geographic area. With the development of the zoo's African Lobe over the next three years, the zoogeographic plan becomes more apparent, and the African Plains exhibit is an excellent example of the intent of the design. Watching the casual lope of a giraffe across a spacious island, and the easy coexistence, as in the wild, of several different species of animals, evokes the sight, sound and feeling of the African plains.

A special feature of the new area is an 850 square foot plaza and fountain in the middle of the walkway in front of the giraffe exhibit. This consists of a ten foot tower, faced over on two sides with a high-relief ceramic frieze depicting plains animals in their natural habitats. Water flows down from the top of this tower, across the face of the frieze, and into a pool bordered by a series of benches and low walls bearing graphic representations of African art and culture. Tall shade trees make this spot truly an oasis -- a perfect place to stop and take a good long look at the animals on all sides.

There are a dozen different new animals on display in the new African Plains section, and the giraffe exhibit is the largest to date in the zoo. In scope and size and in special quality, this expansion is a most significant event in the growth of Metrozoo.

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## SULAWESI: A MALAYAN VILLAGE

Metrozoo has some very special features in addition to the cageless animal displays throughout the park. One of the most interesting and colorful of these is Sulawesi.

Patterned after the village of Rantepao on an island in Indonesia, Metrozoo's Malayan Village houses the animal contact area, where children and adults alike can enjoy a closer relationship with some of the zoo's tame animals. A nursery and hatchery building for the care of small animals will eventually be on this site as well.

The torrential monsoon rains in Indonesia make it necessary for the people there to build their homes and storehouses with huge, ark-shaped roofs that project outwards to make the rain run off and keep the inside of the house snug and dry. Metrozoo's Sulawesi can be seen from far away by those roofs, which are painted in the brightly-colored designs and traditional motifs of the Toradja people who inhabit the town of Rantepao.

Metrozoo's Sulawesi is more than a replica of an exotic form or architecture; it provides an example of how other people live, and how the natural world affects and enhances man's way of life.

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