

MICOS

A Primate Story



Exhibition

12.12.2019 – 26.4.2020



**museu de
ciències naturals
de Barcelona**

museuciencies.cat

Produced by:



National
Museums
Scotland

Touring in association with
Nomad Exhibitions

With support of:



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament
de Cultura

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el Periódico

1. Introduction

The Natural Science Museum of Barcelona presents **Monkeys! A Primate Story**, the most extensive temporary exhibition on our closest relatives ever created. Produced by **National Museums Scotland** and travelling in association with **Nomad Exhibitions**, this immersive, interactive and multisensory exhibition aimed at all publics includes 60 taxidermy monkeys specifically mounted for the exhibition in dynamic postures that recreate their behaviour in the wild.

Set in a jungle with surround sound, **Monkeys! A Primate Story** is a unique opportunity to learn about our primate cousins, from the pygmy mouse lemur to the huge gorilla. Specimens, projections and games reveal how they have adapted to different habitats, communicate, move and interact and survive in a constantly changing environment, and also explore our similarities with our primate relatives. The final part of the exhibition considers the uncertain future facing primate species. Almost half are in danger of extinction mainly due to the destruction of their habitat, while illegal hunting and trade mean that thousands primates are killed for their meat, skins or body parts or are captured for use as tourist attractions or as pets.

The Natural Science Museum of Barcelona complements the exhibition with information on local organizations doing crucial work on primate rehabilitation and recovery and on the little gestures we can all make to help preserve these incredible animals.

Monkeys! A Primate Story, an exhibition that opened to great success in Edinburgh in 2016, arrives in Barcelona after having travelled to Australia and Belgium.

Exhibition duration: 12 December 2019 to 26 April 2020

All animals shown in the exhibition died of natural causes in captivity. No harm was done to any animal in preparing this exhibition.

2. Exhibition scope

The exhibition is divided into five areas: **Adapting to life, The senses and communication, Social climbers, An uncertain future,** and **Local and international conservation.**

2.0 Introduction. We are primates – you too!

The huge gorillas, the tiny mouse lemurs and us humans – we are all primates. Explore our relationship with other primates and find out how the different species have adapted in order to survive in a wide variety of habitats. Look at the family tree and trace our origins back to 50 million years ago.

The Natural Science Museum of Barcelona has included, in this area, photographs by the biologist and photographer Montserrat Pallàs, part of a project undertaken by her since 2015 in several zoos and nature parks. Her portraits of primates capture their beauty and personality as if they were persons, thereby underlining our close relationship with them. These images seek to provoke reflection on how we affect and are responsible for the living conditions of primates, both in nature and in captivity.

The Natural Science Museum of Barcelona has also taken advantage of the opportunity offered by the exhibition to show the gorilla Urko, eldest son of Snowflake (the first albino gorilla known to science) and Ndengue. Urko, born in 1978 in Barcelona Zoo, died from peritonitis in 2003 aged 25 years and weighing 190 kg; according to his caregivers, his facial features were very similar to those of his father. Following his death, Barcelona Zoo donated him to the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona for conservation as a taxidermy mount created by its Zoological Preparation Laboratory.

2.1 Adapt to life

Throughout evolution, the different species of primate have adapted to particular ways of life through specialization of their bodies to take maximum advantage of the foods available in different habitats.

Long arms are used to swing from trees. Long legs provide the necessary thrust to jump. Sharp claws help cling to trees. Frontal vision means distances can easily be calculated. Tails help maintain balance on thin branches. Large eyes improve light capture.

Primates live on varied diets that include fruit, nuts, shoots, insects, spiders, crabs, birds and even other mammals. Some have unusual diets that include, for instance, resin, mushrooms or bamboo. Chimpanzees, from time to time, eat monkeys!

To adapt, primates have developed teeth, jaws and intestines that allow them to process and digest the foods available in diverse habitats. Some primates – including humans – are capable of making tools to obtain food.

While humans may be the only primates that have evolved to walk upright on both feet, they are not the only species to make use of a wide variety of tools in the form of wood, leaves or stones. Some chimpanzee groups have even developed their own locally specific way of making tools.

2.2 The senses and communication

Primates use the senses for orientation and to learn about their environment, find food, avoid danger and communicate. To perceive their surroundings they rely mostly on hearing and sight, although touch and smell are also important.

Most primates live in enclosed jungles or grasslands, where communication may be impeded by dense vegetation or great distances. However, primates have developed long-distance communication systems based on sound, while visual cues, touch and even body odour markings allow them to communicate over shorter distances.

Vocal communication is very important for primates. Howler monkeys can be heard over several kilometres through dense jungle. Tarsiers communicate using ultrasounds of up to 80 kilohertz, beyond the range of most of their predators and four times the normal hearing range of humans. Vervets use different kinds of shouts to alert their companions, depending on whether the predator is approaching by air or on the ground.

Other primates, like the ring-tailed lemurs, use smell and body odour markings as their main form of communication. Many primates have brightly coloured faces and rears, which change in colour depending on the message being transmitted. Mandrill females choose their mates according to the size of the male's canine teeth.

2.3 Social climbers

The primates gather in different types and sizes of social groups. Whether they live in large groups with many males and females, as faithful couples or alone, throughout their lives they develop strong and complex bonds with each other.

Group living has many advantages. Together primates learn from each other and more effectively protect and raise their offspring, find mates, detect predators and search for and share food. For young primates it means being able to learn essential social and survival skills by imitation.

Some primates live in monogamous couples consisting of a male, a female and their offspring. Gibbons sing duets each morning to mark their territory and strengthen bonds with their mate. Marmosets rarely separate much in space and often even intertwine tails to reassure each other.

Except when they need to mate or raise young, some primates largely live alone, although they maintain contact with their species using body odour markings and characteristic calls. Even though they may only join others of their species occasionally, they know their neighbours perfectly well.

2.4 An uncertain future

Around half of primate species are in danger of extinction. Their habitats are becoming fragmented or are disappearing as land is taken to build houses and supply food, energy and materials to a relentlessly growing world population, currently amounting to around seven billion humans.

Humans hunt primates for their meat, skins and body parts and also to be used as tourist attractions or pets. They are also exploited for medical and veterinary research. The acceleration in global climate change caused by human activities is greatly affecting primate habitats and often leads to conflict when primates raid human crops in search of food.

Certain diseases in primates can infect humans and vice versa. HIV/AIDS originated in the hunting of chimpanzees and gorillas for their meat in West Africa around 100 years ago and eventually spread to humans, resulting in millions of deaths since the 1980s.

There is still hope that we can save primates by protecting and restoring their habitats, reintroducing species and changing our consumption habits and lifestyles. These actions are vital to ensure the survival of our closest relatives in the animal world.

2.5 Local and international conservation

The Natural Science Museum of Barcelona has included an additional area in the exhibition, aimed at raising awareness among visitors of the problems facing captive primates in our country.

Primates are wild animals and almost all primate species are in danger of extinction. Because they must be protected and because captivity causes them physical and psychological suffering, it is forbidden to buy, sell or even own them. Only authorized zoos and rescue centres are allowed to keep primates for preservation, rehabilitation and recovery purposes.

Real stories from authorized preservation organizations – such as the MONA Foundation, the Charles Darwin Foundation, the Chimpatía Foundation, Primadomus and Barcelona Zoo – tell of primates who suffered captivity and ill-treatment but were given a second chance.

These centres do their utmost to rehabilitate the animals and ensure that they recover as much of their physical and psychological health as possible. However, while physical problems can be resolved given suitable care in the right environment, psychological problems are far more difficult to treat. Many primates captured as babies or infants may never be successfully reintroduced into their natural habitat.

This area also includes detailed information on the little gestures we can all make to contribute to the preservation of these incredible animals. For example, if we recycle our mobile phones, we help reuse coltan, a mineral whose extraction is destroying the habitats of gorillas and other primates; we also protect habitats if we make sure that the furniture we buy is made of sustainable wood.

2.6 Museographic elements

60 taxidermy specimens

3 large audiovisual projections:

- Primates today: 8'42"
- Social climbers: 7'12"
- Jungle climbing: 2'51"

6 interactive digital displays

- In danger of extinction
- Family tree
- Human puzzle
- Jungle conversations
- Monkey supermarket
- Primate conservation

2 interactive manual displays

1 climbing/play zone

3. Exhibition-related Christmas activities

3.1 Christmas activities

3.1.1 Close to nature – a monkey special

A space for observing nature and bringing us closer to the world of monkeys using the naked eye and optical instruments. Observations will inspire questions and lead us to reflect on our relationship with primates.

45-minute visits, as follows:

11 am to 2 pm

December: Saturday 21, Tuesday 24, Friday 27, Saturday 28, Tuesday 31

January: Thursday 2, Friday 3, Saturday 4, Sunday 5, Tuesday 7

11 am to 2 pm & 4 pm to 7 pm

December: Sunday 22, Sunday 29

All ages from 7 years old

Free entry. Please note that you must book at the ticket office.

3.1.2 Poetry: *De mica en mico*

A visit to the exhibition and a poetry recital will be the starting point for the creation of an inspiring visual poem. We recommend visiting the temporary **Monkeys! A Primate Story** exhibition first.

4.45 pm & 5.45 pm

December: Saturday 21, Saturday 28

January: Saturday 4

Family event, ages from 8 years old

Price €2.50 per child (includes free admission to **Monkeys! A Primate Story**)

Duration 90 minutes

Note that you must book at https://museuciencies.cat/activitats/19-12_poesia_mica_en_mico/

3.1.3 Museum Quiz Familiar

This activity, led by an entertaining quiz master, consists of a question and answer game where families, playing as teams, are tested on their knowledge of primates.

5.30 pm Saturday 11 January

Family event, children aged 5-12 years old

Duration 120 minutes

Free entry

Note that you must book at https://museuciencies.cat/activitats/19-12_museum_quiz_familiar/

The Botanical Gardens (11.30 am Saturday 28 December) and the Maritime Museum (5.30 pm Saturday 4 January) will host variants of this activity reflecting the themes of each of those centres.

3.2 Family activities

January to April 2020

3.2.1 JOJÓ, the story of an orangutan

A visual poetry performance by the Borja Ytuquepintas Company that combines sand art, live music and large-format puppets to tell the story of the first orangutan rescued from captivity, leading to the launch of an international Animal Rescue NGO project.

12.00 midday Sunday 19 January

Family event, ages from 5 years old

Duration 50 minutes

Free entry

This show is part of activities to present the 14th Cycle of City Park, Beach and River Activities organized in collaboration with Barcelona Metropolitan Area.

3.2.2 Niu Viu

This set of thematic activities, framed within the Science Nest (*Niu de Ciència*) that takes place every third Saturday of the month, this year includes two sessions dedicated to the theme of the temporary **Monkeys! A Primate Story** exhibition.

- Act the monkey! Get to know the primate inside you

Primate gestures and expressions and their relationships and games are all suggestive of their links with us. Explore their movements through different artistic proposals, designed as a fun interactive game for families. Activity implemented in collaboration with Montse Roure.

Saturday 15 February: visits at **4 pm** and at **5.30 pm**

Family event, children aged 0-3 years

- **A monkey world! How we feel**

How do monkeys express themselves? Are they any good at theatre? Does their gaze reflect their emotions? Do we look the same? To get to know the primate inside us, we explore bodily expressions using a range of theatrical devices. Activity implemented in collaboration with Aitor Vinagreta, a theatre expert.

Saturday 21 March: visits at **4.30 pm** and at **6 pm**

Family event, children aged 3-6 years old

Duration 60 minutes

Price €2.50 per child (children must be accompanied by an adult)

3.2.3 The monkey tree. Monkeys and their stories

Monkeys, more monkeys ... primates! Discover, with the help of illustrated books and albums, how they live, what they like to do and how they communicate – and then add a new page of collective history based on creative manipulation of different materials.

11.30 am

Sunday 26 January, Sunday 23 February, Sunday 29 March, Sunday 26 April

Family event, children from 6 years old

Duration 90 minutes

Entry is free with tickets to **Monkeys! A Primate Story** or **Planet Life**

3.2.4 Short stories of great women: Biruté Galdikas

This activity involves several museums telling stories, in a dramatized format, of a crucial figure associated with their collections. In the case of the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona, the subject of the story will be Biruté Galdikas, an ethologist and primatologist famous for her work with orangutans.

11.30 am Sunday 1 March

Family event, children from 5 years old

Duration 60 minutes

Free entry. Note that booking in person is necessary and that numbers are limited

The series consists of nine sessions at the following nine museums: Natural Science Museum of Barcelona, National Museum of Art of Catalonia, Archaeology Museum of Catalonia, Picasso Museum, Design Museum, Miró Foundation, Catalan History Museum and the two Esplugues Museums.

3.3 Activities for the general public

Jordi Serrallonga, archaeologist, naturalist, explorer, writer and collaborator of the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona, has programmed several activities for the general public that include Lunatics Club meetings, Primates, Science and Society debates and a Reading Club in collaboration with the Ramon de Alòs-Moner Library. All these activities will be dedicated to building a family portrait of primates, animals that, despite our close relationship with them, in most cases only relatively recently came to be studied and understood. This situation has left many primates vulnerable in terms of their conservation and survival. The sessions will be attended by recognized experts who will offer different perspectives on the world of primates.

3.3.1 The Lunatics Club

The Natural Science Museum of Barcelona hosts regular meetings of the Lunatics Club, inspired by the Lunar Society of Birmingham, which used to meet on nights with a full moon to discuss the most recent scientific advances and one of whose members was Charles Darwin's grandfather. The meetings, which take place once a month on a Thursday, feature an invited expert. The expert spends some 20 minutes introducing the session theme, after which attendees are encouraged to participate. The sessions are moderated by Jordi Serrallonga.

7 pm Thursday 19 December

Planet of the apes in the 21st century. From Darwin to Jane Goodall: why are we primates?

As primates: who are we, where do we come from and where are we going?

Speaker and moderator: Jordi Serrallonga, archaeologist, naturalist, explorer, writer and collaborator of the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona and, in his own words, “a primate domesticated by culture and passionate about science”

7 pm Thursday 16 January

Primate communication

How do non-human primates communicate and what do they tell us?

Speaker: Anna Omedes, primatologist and Director of the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona

7 pm Thursday 20 February

Field studies of the mountain gorilla after Dian Fossey

Speaker: Jordi Galbany, field primatologist in Rwanda and professor at the University of Barcelona

7 pm Thursday 19 March

Great apes in today's zoos

Research, education and conservation at Barcelona Zoo

Speaker: María Teresa Abelló, primatologist and primates curator at Barcelona Zoo

7 pm Thursday 16 April

Orangutans in danger of extinction

The destruction of natural habitats and the uncertain future facing primates

Speaker: Joana Aragay, biologist at the Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project (OuTrop)

General public

Duration 90 minutes

Free entry. Note that places must be booked online

Snacks are available to attendees

3.3.2 Primates, Science and Society. Debate Series

The debates, moderated by Jordi Serrallonga and featuring three or four experts per session, are intended to be dynamic discussions that encourage public participation. While only speakers confirmed to date are listed here, up-to-date information on further participating experts as they are confirmed will be posted in the website of the [Natural Science Museum of Barcelona](https://www.museu-ciencies.cat).

6 pm Wednesday 5 February

Homeless primates

The role of primate rescue centres, here and elsewhere

With the participation of Montserrat Ubach, Director of the Darwin Centre in Barcelona

6 pm Wednesday 4 March

Gender: biology or culture?

Roles and (in)equalities in primate societies

With the participation of Montserrat Colell, ethologist and primatologist at the University of Barcelona

6 pm Wednesday 1 April

Origins and evolution of primate culture

Past and present of *Homo sapiens*: a chosen species?

With the participation of Josep Call, professor at the University of St. Andrews and Director of the Budongo Research Unit at Edinburgh Zoo, and Cristina Sáez, science journalist with La Vanguardia

General public

Every first Wednesday of the month from January to April

Duration 120 minutes

Free entry. Prior booking required at <https://museuciencies.cat/visitans/activitats-per/tots-els-publics/>

3.3.3 Reading Club: *A Primate's Memoir*

Within the framework of the **Monkeys! A Primate Story** exhibition, the Natural Science Museum of Barcelona – in collaboration with the Ramón de Alòs-Moner Library – has chosen *A Primate's Memoir: A Neuroscientist's Unconventional Life Among the Baboons* (by Robert M. Sopolsky) for the February session of the Reading Club. This activity is also included as a Reading Club session in the Ramón de Alòs-Moner Library.

7 pm Tuesday 18 February

General public over 12 years old

Duration 120 minutes

Free entry

Note:

- The book is available from the Ramon de Alòs-Moner Library (Rambla Prim 87-89, Barcelona) from 21 January 2020.
- The book loan includes a free ticket to **Monkeys! A Primate Story**.

4. Credits

Apenheul
The Aspinall Foundation
Dr Fred Babweteera, Budongo
Forest Project, Uganda
Blackpool Zoo
Bristol, Clifton and West of
England Zoological Society
City of Belfast Zoo
Colchester Zoo
Conservation International
Cromer Zoo
Professor Katrin Dausmann,
University of Hamburg
Dr James Dietz, Save the Golden
Lion Tamarin
Drusillas Zoo Park
Dudley and West Midlands
Zoological Society
Dr Jacob Dunn, Anglia Ruskin
University
Durrell Wildlife Conservation
Trust
Endangered Asian Species Trust
Exmoor Zoological Garden
Professor Tecumseh Fitch,
University of Vienna
Michael Griffiths, Jubilee
Veterinary Group
Hamerton Zoo Park
Dr Michael Haslam and Dr
Tomos Proffitt, University of
Oxford
Holohil Systems Ltd.
Professor Jørn Harald Hurum,
University of Oslo
International Center for Birds of
Prey
Professor Aubrey Manning
Marwell Wildlife
Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime
Unit
Dr Jerome Micheletta, University
of Portsmouth
Monkey world
National Zoological Society of
Wales
North of England Zoological
Society
Operation Wallacea
The Orangutan Foundation
Paignton Zoo Environmental Park

Dr Ute Radespiel, University of
Hannover
Rare Species Conservation Trust
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Royal Zoological Society of
Antwerp
Royal Zoological Society of
Scotland
Dr Mike Rutherford, University of
the West Indies
Dr Anthony Rylands
Anne Sommerfield and Susan
Tunstall, Primate Planet
Productions
South Lakes Safari Zoo
Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens
Stephen Toher
Twycross Zoo
Professor Chris Vinyard
Northeast Ohio Medical
University
Sian Waters, Barbary Macaque
Awareness and Conservation
Woburn Safari Park
Zoological Society of East Anglia
Zoological Society of London

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Bristol Zoological Society
Dr Alexander Sliwa, Zoo Köln
Meldy Tamengge, Macaca Nigra
Project
Dr Roland Wirth, ZGAP
Juliet Wright, Zoological Society
of London

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Scotland
The Green Path Animal Refuge,
Bolivia
Professor Robert Seyfarth and
Professor Dorothy Cheney,
University of Pennsylvania
Liza Veiga
Volodins Bioacoustic Group

EXHIBITION IN BARCELONA

Teresa Abelló, Josep Maria
Alonso, Marta Bustelo, Bryan
Carroll,
Olga Feliu, Pilar Jornet, Montse
Pallàs, Jordi Serrallonga,
Montserrat Ubach

Common primate names in Catalan

TERMCAT Catalan Terminology
Centre www.termcat.cat

Common primate names in Spanish

Mittermeier, RA, Rylands, AB &
Wilson, DE, 2013. Handbook of
the Mammals of the World. Vol. 3
Primates Lynx Editions
Barcelona

5. Useful information

DURATION

From 1 December 2019 to 26 April 2020

OPENING TIMES

- 10 am to 6 pm Tuesday to Friday
- 10 am to 7 pm Saturdays
- 10 am to 8 pm Sundays and holidays
- Closed: non-holiday Mondays, 1 January, 1 May, 24 June, 25 December

PRICES

- Standard €6.50
- Reduced: €4.50

Monkeys! A Primate Story + Planet Life:

- Standard combined: €10.50
- Reduced combined: €6.50

Further information: museuciencies.cat

Follow and share using the tag: #MicosMCNB

Exhibition photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/museuciencies>

How to get here:

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Link to Google Maps :

<http://ow.ly/xxDP50xBQxi>

By underground

L4 (Yellow Line)

Stop: Maresme-Forum

By tram

TRAMBESÒS T4

Stop: Forum

By bus

7, V29, V31, 136, V33, B20, B23, H16, Barcelona Bus Turístic and Barcelona City Tour



6. Natural Science Museum of Barcelona

The Natural Science Museum of Barcelona, founded 135 years ago, has natural heritage collections containing some three million specimens from the fields of mineralogy, petrology, palaeontology, zoology and botany. It has centres located in three emblematic parks in the city of Barcelona: the headquarters in Forum Park, the centres in Montjuïc Park and the Botanical Gardens, and the Collections Department, Research Department and Documentation Centre distributed between the Castle of the Three Dragons and Martorell Museum (formerly the zoology and geology museums) in Ciutadella Park.

The headquarters in Forum Park, which opened in March 2011, consists of spacious modern premises that have enabled the development of innovative informative and educational programmes. The premises, measuring 9,000 m² distributed over two floors, are structured around a huge open-access hall that is the arrival point of visitors and the starting point of the museum's activities and spaces, which include the permanent **Planet Life** exhibition, temporary exhibitions spaces, a media library, the Science Nest (for children up to 6 years old), the auditorium, classrooms, workshops, offices for nature associations and a shop.