

International Tiger Day is a terrrrific way to celebrate the Year of the Tiger and Conservation!

SEATTLE—The stars have aligned, err stripes? July 29 is International Tiger Day, which also happens to be the Year of the Tiger, according to the Chinese Zodiac. Those born during the Year of the Tiger are said to be strong, brave and courageous. So, Woodland Park Zoo is asking everyone to celebrate International Tiger Day by taking bold actions to protect this incredible species.



Did you know you can see tiger training weekly? Woodland Park Zoo has a Tiger Training Demonstration at 11:00 a.m. every Friday and Saturday. The zoo's animal keepers show how they safely work with large, powerful predators and how the training allows tigers to participate in their own care.

Two Malayan tigers, Bumi, 12, and Azul, 6, call the zoo home. Malayan tigers are one of six subspecies of tigers, all of which are critically endangered due to habitat loss, poaching and climate change. But there is hope for the world's biggest cat. After decades of decline, the population of tigers is slowly rebounding. However, there is more work to do.

As part of the effort to improve tiger population viability, Bumi and Azul have a breeding recommendation from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' Malayan Tiger Species Survival Plan. The zoo plans to introduce Bumi and Azul later this fall, but at this point, no specific date is set. Since a tiger's gestation period is about three and a half months, some rambunctious kitty paws could be running around at the zoo in the very near future.

In the meantime, celebrate International Tiger Day by learning more about tiger conservation efforts and how you can participate in the movement.

In 2012 Woodland Park Zoo partnered with Panthera and Rimba, an in-country field partner of the zoo, to launch the Malayan Tiger Conservation Program. This program works with the Terengganu State Government to protect tigers in and around Taman Negara National Park in peninsular Malaysia. Now entering a second 10-year agreement, with new on-ground partners Panthera-Malaysia and Nature-Based Solutions, the program has been enormously successful at protecting tigers and tiger habitat in the largest tiger landscape in the country.

The team of researchers in Malaysia has recently indicated that the population of Malayan tigers continues to improve in the region, with tigers successfully breeding in the Kenyir Core Area. So far this year, researchers have observed three cubs growing into healthy sub-adults in that region, and the crew is optimistic about the program's progress.

How You Can Help Protect Tigers:

- *Look for certified, sustainable palm oil.* Palm oil is common in many candies, foods and household products. The Malayan tiger's habitat has been decimated by the creation of unsustainable oil palm plantations trying to keep up with global palm oil demand. Fortunately, many companies have switched to using certified, sustainable palm oil. For sweet occasions, use this [treat shopping guide](#) that will delight your

loved ones and save forests and wildlife a world away. The guide features companies that are actively working to make a difference.

- *See Bumi and Azul in action!* We have a Tiger Training Demonstration at 11:00 a.m. every Friday and Saturday. Learn how animal keepers safely work with large, powerful predators and how the training allows tigers to participate in their own care. Plus, you contribute to our conservation mission every time you visit the zoo.
- *Visit www.zoo.org/tigers.* Learn more about the Malayan Tiger Conservation Program and the successes the program has already celebrated. If you'd like to make a gift to tiger conservation, please visit www.zoo.org/donate, where you can write "Malayan Tigers" in the notes of the designation box to make sure 100% of your gift goes to support this program.
- *Be a savvy traveler!* When looking for souvenirs abroad, remember that some jewelry and trinkets might be made from illegally poached animal parts. Don't be afraid to ask what the product is made of and where it came from. By making informed choices, you can avoid having your souvenir confiscated and you'll support wildlife conservation around the world. Visit SEAsavvytravel.org to take the savvy traveler pledge and pick up wildlife-friendly tips for your next adventure.
- *Adopt a tiger.* Show your love for tigers with a Malayan Tiger Adoption. The ZooParent program supports the zoo's animal care, education and wildlife conservation efforts in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Woodland Park Zoo offers a safe, outdoor experience for all. Visit www.zoo.org for information. Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. daily.

Accessibility: Information about accessibility and resources, one-to-one aides, sighted guides, mobility equipment rentals, and a sensory map and tools can be found at www.zoo.org/access. For questions or to request disability accommodations for zoo programs or events, contact zooinfo@zoo.org.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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