Wet weather trail at Chester Zoo

One thing we can definitely predict about the UK weather is that it’s unpredictable! But don’t let the rain put you off getting active and out and about at Chester Zoo! We’ve pulled together a wet weather trail to use alongside the main zoo map to help you discover some of the more sheltered habitats in the zoo to give you a break from the heaviest of showers!

So, put on your wellies and grab your raincoat and explore Chester Zoo whatever the weather!

1. Asian Forest
   Start your journey at the main entrance in the Asian Forest. It’s home to our unique herd of Asian elephants. Just follow the pathway round, through the forest vegetation and past the beautiful birds. Inside you’ll find a variety of exotic plants and wildlife that can be found in this part of the world.

2. Monkeys
   From the elephants’ head over to see a number of wonderful monkey species – each one mesmerising to watch. Here you’ll find the agile spider monkey, the rare capuchin and the largest monkey species in the world – the mandrill.

3. Fruit Bat Forest
   Plunge yourself into darkness and get up close to one of the world’s most fascinating animals – bats! But there’s no need to be afraid of the dark here. Get up close to our colony of bats as they go about their nightly business. As you make your way through the forest and head towards the bat cave, you may be able to feel the air as they whoosh past you! But there’s no need to worry about them flying into you, bats are excellent navigators.

4. Monsoon Forest
   Step into our tropical Monsoon Forest, found in the heart of Islands. Listen to the call of the rhinoceros hornbill, observe the family of Sumatran orangutans and take in the many stunning species of birds flying around you as you walk through the free flight aviary. Before you head over to the next destination, make sure you spend some time in the Sunda gharial cave.

5. Painted dogs habitat
   Head towards the ‘plains of Africa’ as the next destination is the Mkomazi conservation field centre. As you follow the path around there are a number of opportunities to catch a glimpse of the incredible African painted dog pack. There’s also a chance to discover more about the conservation work we’re carrying out in the field to protect these amazing dogs.

6. Butterfly House
   Wander through a tropical environment and come close to some of the more delicate wildlife found at Chester Zoo. As soon as you step inside the Butterfly Journey you’ll notice the change in temperature. Make sure you spend a moment to take in your surroundings and get used to the change in climate.

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7. Tropical Realm

This habitat is home to hundreds of animals, from reptiles, amphibians and free flight birds. Make sure you spend time looking all around you as you walk through this tropical environment. Soak up your surroundings - listen to the many different sounds around you, the running waterfall and the many beautiful bird songs. Explore each corner of this habitat as there's plenty to find here. This place will make you forget all about the rainy weather outside.

8. Spirit of the Jaguar

Get a taste of one of the most exotic parts of the world, Latin America, where a variety of extraordinary wildlife can be found. As you make your way through make sure you look all around you - even above your head - to spot the wonderful wildlife within this habitat. You have the chance to come face to face with the incredible jaguars, observe the gentle behaviour of the two-toed sloth and discover the underwater habitat of the Amazon.

9. Realm of the Red Ape

Visit the home of the beautiful Bornean orangutan and immerse yourself in the world of the forest treetops of Indonesia. The Realm of the Red Ape is not just home to these magnificent, red-haired primates though, within this tropical habitat you'll also find a variety of animals including the Lars gibbon, birds, lizards and the world's longest snake.

10. Aquarium

Explore underwater habitats without stepping foot in the sea and discover a watery world home to seahorses, brittle stars, blind fish, octopus and clownfish. Discover what unique wildlife can be found in the depths of the oceans across the planet, and the important role they play. You might be surprised with what you find here; there are aquatic species of all shapes, sizes and colours. Plus you'll be able to see how we grow our own coral!

11. Dragons in Danger

This habitat is home to one of nature's fiercest hunters; the Komodo dragon. Observe the largest lizard in the world and discover what other amazing species can be found here.

12. Parrot Breeding Centre

Wildlife conservation is at the heart of everything we do at Chester Zoo. Here you will be able to get closer to one of our 100 conservation breeding programmes and discover more about the work we do behind the scenes with the Ecuadorian Amazon parrot.

13. The Plant Project

Step inside a colourful haven full of exotic plants and treat yourself to a visual and sensory feast! Warm up in The Plant Project! Around the corner from Oakfield House, between the Conservation Garden and the Parrot Breeding Centre, is a tropical habitat full of beautiful plants and flowers, some endangered in the wild.