



SAN DIEGO ZOO

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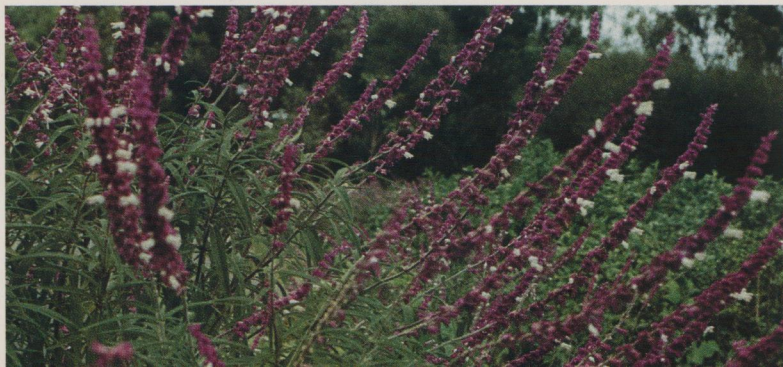
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## COVER

River hippos *Hippopotamus amphibius* will be returning to a new exhibit at the San Diego Zoo early this summer, complete with a 130,000-gallon pool that will allow underwater viewing for visitors.

Water is essential to the hippo. It spends nearly the entire day sleeping and resting in it and emerges for only about six hours in the evening to graze on nearby grasses. San Diego Zoo photo by Ron Gordon Garrison.





**A**  
**RHINO**  
**NAMED**  
**JAFAR**

**H**e may be named after the villain in the Disney film *Aladdin*, but Jafar the Indian rhinoceros

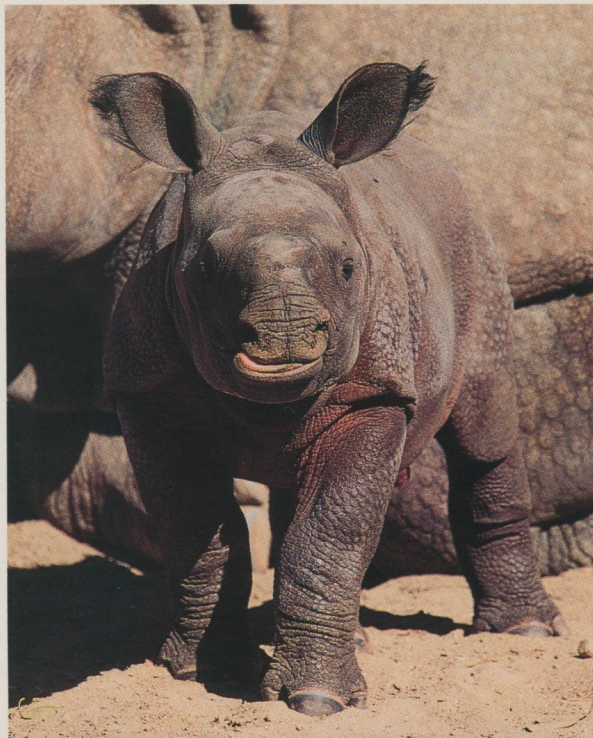
*Rhinoceros unicornis* is no bad guy. Born on November 26 and weighing in at 147 pounds at birth, Jafar is active, curious, and growing steadily. He is also reportedly very independent for his age—at times, even obstinate. Most young rhinos will follow mom fairly closely for the first couple of months, but when the keepers needed to clean Jafar's barn area, when he was only three days old, he ignored his mother's calls to go out into the yard. There he sat, in the barn, determined to find out what the keepers were planning to do. Finally, the keepers had to push him from behind and out the door—no easy task with a reluctant rhino!

Jafar is the Wild Animal Park's 20th birth of this endangered species. Indian rhinos are native to the floodplain grasslands of India, where they use their prehensile upper lip to gather tall grasses, shrubs, and woody browse for food. Like all rhino species, Indian rhinos

are dependent upon a water source, drinking almost daily at small pools or rivers and spending long periods lying in water. Their skin may appear armor-plated, but the blood vessels are actually close to the skin surface, and water and mud help protect these giants from stinging and biting insects.

Along with other rhinos, Indian rhinos have been hunted to the brink of extinction, largely for their horns. The horns are ground into a powder that is believed to be an aphrodisiac in parts of India and a fever-reducing agent in China. Ironically, the people who follow this practice could get the same benefit from chewing their own fingernails—rhino horn is made of long strands of keratin, the same material in human fingernails and hair.

With his big, fringed ears, rounded nose, and lots of personality, Jafar has made quite a stir in the Park's Asian plains. He may not be able to capture the genie and the golden lamp, but he will capture your attention on your next monorail ride!



San Diego Zoo: R. Gordon Garrison