

# Go and see the unicorns at the zoo this winter

There will be hundreds of magical and mythical creatures this winter at Edinburgh Zoo as part of its biggest ever event, The Giant Lanterns of China.

There will be unicorns, faeries, kelpies and Nessie the Loch Ness Monster.

For 50 nights from 16 November 2018, visitors to Scotland's only Chinese lantern festival will come nose to nose with over 450 gigantic lanterns inspired by mythical creatures from Scottish and Chinese folklore.



There were more than 83,000 visitors to last year's lantern event and this year's huge handmade steel and silk sculptures will take you on a new nighttime trail in the zoo grounds.

The Giant Lanterns of China is inspired by the Scottish tradition of storytelling, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) worldwide animal conservation work and the cultural heritage of Sichuan – where the Zoo's resident giant

pandas were born.

**Barbara Smith, chief executive at RZSS Edinburgh Zoo, said:**

“This year’s Giant Lanterns of China event is set to be bigger and even more spectacular than ever. We’re bringing to life a new myths and legends theme in an awe-inspiring nocturnal trail around the Zoo, which features everything from Scotland’s very own Nessie to a colossal phoenix from China.

“Visitors will come face-to-face with famous fairy tales, folklore and fables from the Far East and Western cultures. Each night, we will illuminate the critical conservation work of RZSS by telling the stories of endangered animals that face extinction and the real risk of them becoming legends for future generations.”

The event was created in partnership with the VYA Creative Lantern Company and DDM Entertainment and Events Inc. More than 50 Chinese craftspeople from Sichuan will spend over 25,000 hours expertly producing the bespoke installations.

Tickets for The Giant Lanterns of China are priced from £9.50 for children and £18 for adults and advanced online booking discounts are available. Tickets are available at [edinburghzoo.org.uk/lanterns](http://edinburghzoo.org.uk/lanterns)