

2007 PAVILION OF WINGS

at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

TIPS FOR YOUR VISIT:

- Visit the *Pavilion of Wings* on a sunny day to see the vibrant colors and patterns on the wings of the **Giant Swallowtail**, the **American Painted Lady** and the **California Dogface**. Butterflies are most active on warm days with little wind because they require the heat of the sun to aid in their digestion.
- Wear a light floral perfume and/or bright-colored or bright-white clothing to encourage the butterflies to land on you... but never touch a butterfly: your touch will cause damage to their sensitive wings.
- Usually the best time to see butterflies emerging from their pupae is between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., but you'll be able to see all forms of their lifecycle (butterfly eggs, caterpillars, and chrysalides) at any point during your visit.

SOME RESIDENTS OF THE *PAVILION OF WINGS* at the Natural History Museum

- The phrase "butterflies in your stomach" comes from the **Cabbage White** butterfly (*Pieris Rapae*), which loves gardens and is the most common butterfly seen by the general public and in urban areas. The caterpillars feast on garden vegetables and can survive in the human stomach if they're not chewed on the way down.
- The **Pipe-vine Swallowtail** (*Battus philenor*) prefers glades in wooded areas in the East but is found in open fields and scrub desert in the West. It is a speedy flier that continues to rapidly flutter its wings when visiting flowers for nectar.
- The male **Red Admirals** (*Vanessa atalanta*) are famous for setting up and patrolling territories – they often perch in sunlit patches and often land on a person's shoulder for this reason.
- The **Question Mark** (*Polygonia interrogationis*) is known for its highly irregular wing outline and for a pearly silver "question mark" on the underside of its hind wing.
- The **Zebra Longwing** (*Heliconius chartonius*) is a long-lived butterfly (6-10 months) that is known to roost in large clusters in the same trees night after night.

Other butterflies in the Pavilion include the **Giant Swallowtail** (the largest butterfly in the Pavilion), the **Spicebush Swallowtail**, the **California Dogface**, the **Viceroy**, and the **Painted Lady**.

SOME GENERAL BUTTERFLY FACTS:

- Caterpillars are often thought to have more legs than the six that all insects are supposed to have. However, these are actually fleshy abdominal appendages that are sometimes counted as "prolegs" but are in fact not legs at all.
- Conservation efforts often center on butterflies, using their general appeal to spark interest in habitat preservation, benefiting thousands of other species. Some of the first invertebrates to be officially recognized as endangered were butterflies, paving the way for public concern for other insects.
- Worldwide, there are up to 150,000 different species of moths and butterflies -- ranging in wingspan from 2 millimeters to 14 inches.