



THE TIFFANY & CO.  
FOUNDATION



**Strictly Embargoed until 11am Tuesday 26 March 2013**

## **New arrivals for St James's Park as three Great White pelicans take up residence in front of Buckingham Palace.**

St James's Park welcomes three Great White pelicans as they take up residence in the Royal Park in front of Buckingham Palace.

The trio, one called Tiffany, help maintain a 349-year tradition that attracts and delights millions of visitors to the park every year. The first pelican to grace the Royal Parks was a gift from the Russian Ambassador to King Charles II in 1664 and the colony has thrived ever since.

The young Great White Pelicans – a gift from the City of Prague – are the result of a remarkable collaboration of the Royal Parks Foundation, The Royal Parks, Prague Zoo and The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, which will ensure the majestic birds flourish in their new home on St James's Park Lake.

Visitors to the Royal Parks Foundation website will be invited to help name one of the beautiful birds by voting for their favourite name from a list at [www.SupportTheRoyalParks.org](http://www.SupportTheRoyalParks.org). These include Bela, Bety, Karola, Pearl, Queenie and Isla.

A precision-planned operation transported the pelicans from Prague in a climate-controlled vehicle with specially mounted cameras so the birds could be observed at all times. Animal welfare officers checked them regularly during the 800-mile trip.

They then enjoyed a pampered introduction to life in St James's Park, spending around two months in a specially fitted out enclosure where an experienced and skilled team monitored their progress as they acclimatised to their new surroundings.

Once the wildlife officer felt they were settled, the three pelicans were cleared to join existing residents: Gargi, Vaclav and Louis to enjoy the delights of the lake and Pelican Rock.

The pelicans' arrival was co-ordinated by the Royal Parks Foundation – the charity for London's eight Royal Parks – and funded by a generous gift from The Tiffany and Co. Foundation in New York. Prague Zoo donated the birds and vet Nic Masters and wildlife transport specialist Matthew Ford gave their time and expertise for free to make the import happen.

Sara Lom, CEO of the Royal Parks Foundation, said: "Pelicans have a special connection with St James's Park. The heritage stretches back to the reign of Charles II.

"As the existing colony grows older, we are very excited to be helping to introduce three young pelicans to the Park and I'm sure the public will be fascinated to see them.

"The birds are a gift from Prague Zoo and the teams involved have worked and planned for a long time to make sure the pelicans' arrival was smooth and as comfortable as possible. They have been in good hands throughout and are now settling into the magnificent environment in St James's Park."

Miroslav Bobek, Director of Prague Zoo, said: "The three pelicans were all born in captivity in 2012 as part of our successful Eastern White breeding programme. They could go on to live into their 30s. We are delighted to be collaborating with The Royal Parks."

The three new pelicans joined existing residents: Louis, Vaclav and Gargi which are all now over 20 years old.

Mark Wasilewski, Manager of St James's Park, said: "The pelicans are part of the Park's history and the team here is very excited about their arrival. These beautiful animals have brought joy to visitors for generations, while also promoting greater interest in the birds and their conservation."

Fernanda Kellogg, Chair of The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, said: "We are very excited to be involved in the project to bring three more pelicans to St James's Park and we are thrilled that one has been named Tiffany.

"Now we hope the public will help us choose the names for the other young female."

The pelicans have safe havens away from the public and predators. A wildlife officer feeds them fish every day (the three new pelicans absolutely love mackerel and sprats!), and ensures they are in good health and, although they are free to roam, the pelicans rarely stray far from the lake.

Pelicans have the second largest wingspan of all living birds (up to 3m, second only to the albatross) and have enormous bills that can measure up to 47cm. A pelican can eat 2kg of fish a day. The collective noun for a group of pelicans is a scoop.

The list of proposed names for the female pelican is online at

[www.SupportTheRoyalParks.org](http://www.SupportTheRoyalParks.org), and the poll will close on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

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### **About the Royal Parks Foundation**

The Royal Parks Foundation is the charity for London's eight amazing Royal Parks. We reach out to make the Parks part of more people's lives - raising funds for a wide variety of projects from wildlife conservation and landscape restoration, to community sport and art. Our charity registration number is 1097545, for more information, please visit [www.SupportTheRoyalParks.org](http://www.SupportTheRoyalParks.org)

### **About the Royal Parks Foundation (USA)**

The Royal Parks Foundation (USA) is an independent charity that supports the work of the Royal Parks Foundation in the UK. It helps conserve London's historic landscapes, supports wildlife programmes, promotes horticultural and educational exchanges and aims to strengthen the many links between parklands in the United States and in Britain. It receives full tax exempt status from the IRS under section 501(c)3.

### **About St James's Park and The Royal Parks:**

Every year millions of Londoners and tourists visit St James's Park, the oldest of the capital's eight Royal Parks. The Park includes The Mall and Horse Guards Parade and is at the heart of ceremonial London, providing the setting of spectacular pageants including the annual, Trooping the Colour. The Park is surrounded by some of the country's most famous landmarks, including Buckingham Palace and Number 10 Downing Street.

The Royal Parks are: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, St James's Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill plus Richmond Park. The Royal Parks also manage Victoria Tower Gardens, Brompton Cemetery, Grosvenor Square Gardens and the gardens of 10, 11 and 12 Downing Street. For further information please visit: [www.royalparks.org.uk](http://www.royalparks.org.uk). For media enquiries contact: 0300 061 2128 or [press@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:press@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk).

### **About The Tiffany & Co. Foundation**

Established in 2000, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations working in two main program areas: the environment and the arts. The Foundation's environmental conservation program promotes responsible mining, healthy marine ecosystems and the enhancement of urban environments. In addition, the Foundation fosters design excellence by supporting organizations dedicated to the field of design and the decorative arts. For more information on The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, please visit [www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org](http://www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org)

In 2010, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation made a \$1.25 million (£784,000) gift to the Royal Parks Foundation (USA) to support '*Tiffany - Across the Water*' – an ambitious fountain restoration programme across London's eight Royal Parks. This includes extensive restoration of the adored Italian Gardens in Kensington Gardens - as well as the re-creation of a stunning twenty-foot water plume in St James's Park lake.

## **About Prague Zoo**

Prague Zoo is one of the best zoological gardens in the world. The zoo was founded in 1931 and it has become one of the most visited places of interest in Czech Republic. The zoo holds the international studbook of the Przewalski wild horse as well as the longest breeding programme of this very last wild horse species in the world. Recently, the zoo has begun several very important projects to reintroduce and protect endangered species such as gorillas, the Przewalski wild horse, and the Indian gharial. The zoo is helping to save biodiversity not just by breeding the species but also by supporting conservation programmes.