



Habitats of the *Restless Planet*

Slog through the humidity of a Malaysian peat swamp and come face-to-face with tomistomas, the world's most endangered crocodile. Shuffle through North African desert sands where cobras and scorpions reside. Explore a 40-foot tunnel in the Red Sea while eagle rays with 6-foot wingspans and hundreds of colorful reef fishes swim overhead. Then hike across an Indonesian volcanic island in search of Komodo dragons, the world's largest lizards. More detailed information about the individual habitats is below.

Indonesia's Flores Island Habitat

Approximately 760 million years ago, Virginia's tallest mountain was an explosive volcano. Today, Indonesia is home to more volcanoes than any other country and the island of Flores is home to 16 of those volcanoes. *Restless Planet* recreates this volcanic environment to educate guests on how volcanoes are created. The Komodo dragon, the largest lizard on the earth, will greet guests through a 4-foot acrylic bubble right inside the dragon's habitat.

Coastal Sahara Desert Habitat

Approximately 430 million years ago, Virginia was the hottest, driest desert that sat on the edge of a shallow sea. The environment created extensive limestone deposits currently found in the western part of the state. Today, a similar environment is found in the Sahara Desert bordering the Mediterranean Sea. *Restless Planet* features many of the inhabitants of this environment such as cobras, desert hedgehogs, scorpions, and short-snouted seahorses.

Malaysian Peat Swamp Habitat

Approximately 320 million years ago, vast peat swamps covered parts of Virginia, ultimately leading to large amounts of coal found in the southwestern part of Virginia. Today's swampy coastal regions of Malaysia best represent the type of environment that formed Virginia's extensive, commercial Appalachian coal beds. *Restless Planet* houses this environment's inhabitants such as tomistomas, Malaysian fish, turtles and reptiles; and recreates the swamp with dripping water, rumbling thunder, low-hanging plants and squishy flooring to highlight how Virginia's coal was formed.

Red Sea Habitat

Approximately 205 million years ago, Virginia had a front row seat for the formation of the Atlantic Ocean when the continent of Pangea was splitting apart. Today, the Red Sea is rifting. To explain how the Atlantic Ocean was formed, spotted eagle rays with a six-foot wing span and hundreds of exotic tropical fish will be showcased in a 100,000-gallon, 40-foot walk-through tunnel aquarium, which is the largest in Virginia.

Journey of Water

The renovated Journey of Water follows the descending path of Virginia's watershed from a gentle waterfall in the Upland River Gallery to the near-shore depths of the Chesapeake Bay. A giant holographic globe will show how Virginia and the continent changed over millions of years along with the plants, animals, and fish of today. Children of all ages will enjoy a newly-renovated touch pool with sea stars, horseshoe crabs, sting rays and other ocean critters.