

## Zoo 'glues a basket' to a tortoise to catch money tossed by tourists

By Tracy You For Mailonline

3 minutes

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## Chinese zoo 'glues a basket' onto the back of a tortoise to catch the money tossed at it by tourists

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- **Picture shows a basket and a Chinese National flag attached to the animal**
- **The post accused the zoo of 'swindling' tourists out of cash and urged a probe**
- **Many Chinese people believe chucking coins could bring them good luck**

A Chinese zoo has caused controversy after gluing a basket onto the back of a tortoise to collect the cash thrown by tourists at the animal.

The park's workers also attached a Chinese national flag to the tortoise as visitors tossed money at it, a picture trending on social media shows.

The zoo said the management was investigating the matter.

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A trending picture shows a basket attached to the back of a tortoise

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The event took place in Nanning Zoo in China during the country's National Day holiday, according to the uploader

The incident took place in Nanning Zoo in the provincial capital of Guangxi, according to a web user known as '[Tea-tia](#)' who shared the picture.

The user said on Twitter-style Weibo that the image was taken during the National Day holiday when many families around the country took their children to zoos and playgrounds.

Chinese people believe that chucking coins at a specific target could bring them good luck or ward off evil spirits. This could range from a statue in a park to a bell in a temple.

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A spokesperson from the Nanning Zoo said the management were investigating the matter

The post accused the zoo of using the African spurred tortoise to 'swindle' tourists out of cash.

It also urged the web police, the National Forestry Bureau and state media to step in and investigate.

The user said that he was shocked to see the tortoise and the basket when he visited the zoo.

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The African spurred tortoise (pictured) can grow to 30 inches long and 100 pounds in weight

He told Pear Video: 'I don't know why the zoo would use this method to exhibit precious animals.'

He also claimed that the tortoise was raised in a 'very bad environment' and no keepers could be seen around.

A spokesperson said the managers were investigating the matter and yet to release a statement.

The African spurred tortoise is one of the largest tortoises in the world. It can grow to 30 inches in length and more than 100 pounds in weight.

They are curious, intelligent and lively, according to San Diego Zoo in the United States.