Ireland's Wildest Attraction, Fota Wildlife Park was opened in 1983 by the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery, and is a joint project of the Zoological Society of Ireland and University College Cork.

Fota House was originally a hunting lodge and became the family's main residence in the 1820s when the architect, Sir Richard Morrison, created the present regency mansion.

Fota Island was the former home of the Smith-Barry family, descendant of Phillip de Barry who came to Ireland from Wales with the Norman invasion. He was granted Fota and other lands in 1185.

The Adopt an Animal Programme is essential to Fota wildlife Park as it provides direct support to the animals’ food and veterinary care budget. The costs of feeding and maintaining a helthy population of animals grow every year and your support is a vital part of this process. The cost of adopting a animal is €60 and in return you will receive your very own adoption pack. This pack includes a Certificate of Adoption, Fota News, A4 Colour Photograph, Car Sticker and Fact Sheet on your Adopted Animal. Each person who adopts an animal will will have their name displayed on the adoption boards in the park opposite the Flamingo’s.

In 2009 Fota Wildlife Park introduced Ireland’s wildest events calendar GO WILD @ FOTA with different events each month including Workshops, Activity Camps, Cheetah Run Road Race, Music, Family Fun, Education and Much more it’s time for everyone to Go Wild.

Fota Wildlife Park is Cork's visited Tourist Attraction and has been awarded best family day out in Cork and Munster. The Park is set on 70 acre on the scenic Fota Island in the heart of Cork Harbour only 15 minutes from Cork City.

The park is not like an ordnary zoo; here you can come face to face with free roaming animals & birds from all parts of the worlds. In addition to the wonderful array of free roaming animals, visitors also have the opportunity to see highly endangered species such as the Rothschild girafe, European Bison, Lion Tailed Macaque and Scimitar Horned Oryx, most of them without the obstacle of fenced-in exhibits.

This are the most spectacular aspect of Fota Wildlife Park, and is the reason you'll want to spend a full day exploring Ireland's Wildest Attraction.