

In 1928, the ZOO, in order to increase its income, decided to lease part of its area for an amusement park called "Luna Park". The entrance to both the park and the ZOO led through a wooden gate from Ratuszowa Street. In 1933, the area of "Luna Park" was extended to Zygmuntowska Street (currently Al. Solidarności) and was given the name "Sto Pociągów" ("One hundred joys".) The amusement park operated until 1939.

In the amusement park, apart from the overhead railway, there would be electric trolleys, merry-go-rounds, a ferris wheel, a cone-shaped maze and several small gastronomic points. It was a place visited by crowds of Varsovians, especially families with children. Part of the Lunapark's profits was allocated to the development of the ZOO.

In Lunapark, Natalia and Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński celebrated their first hours after their wedding in the nearby Prague Orthodox church. The famous poet referenced it in his poem "Zabawa ludowa" ("Folk fun").

A part of the Lunapark was also a parachute tower, the remnants of which are located in the western part of Park Praski near Wybrzeże Helskie. The tower, that was 28 m tall, was erected in the "Sto Pociągów" park in 1937. Until the war, it served both the members of the Railway District of the Air and Anti-Gas Defense League, (its owner), and guests of the amusement park. The platform from which the jumps were made was at the height of 20 m. In the 1930s, the Lunapark was included in the song "Choc na Pragę" ("Go to Prague") considered to be the local anthem of the Warsaw Prague. The words were written by Tadeusz Stach, and music by Artur Gold.

After a few years the Lunapark was closed, and the ZOO gained additional space, where the first enclosures for ungulates and a seal pool were built, even before the war.

*(article by Jan Landowski)*