

SHUTDOWN: Company offers fill-in for National Zoo Panda Cam

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The federal government shutdown may have caused the National Zoo's Panda Cam to go dark, but the American public can still glimpse the cuddly animals and others tourist attractions through the lenses of EarthCam.com.

The Hackensack, N.J.-based company, which designs and manufactures camera networks, has "eyes" in more than 1,500 cities around the world. EarthCam streams images of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum and the Statue of Liberty, and works with corporations and government groups to document and promote projects.

If you have a hankering to watch pandas, a mama and her two cubs, born July 15, can be seen on the company's Zoo Atlanta cameras. There are also Greenville (S.C.) giraffes, Hollywild Animal Park Bears and Bali elephants.

Perhaps the most amusing is the live view from the top of the Washington Monument. In the middle of a Thursday afternoon, the National Mall is completely empty. Happy shutdown.

The screenshot shows the EarthCam website interface. At the top left is the EarthCam logo. To the right is a search bar with a 'GO LIVE' button. Below the search bar is a large live video feed showing a beach scene in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. To the right of this feed is a 'LIVE Webcam Network' section with a grid of smaller webcam thumbnails. Below the main video feed is a grid of more webcam thumbnails with labels such as 'Austin, TX', 'FL Lauderdale, FL', 'Costa Rica', 'Sedona, AZ', 'Las Vegas, NV', 'St. Barthelemy, FRW', 'Washington D.C.', and 'World Trade Center'. Below this grid is a section titled 'EarthCam.net - Professional Webcam Technology and Services'. This section features a large image of a camera with the text '16 MegapixelCam Advanced' and 'Proud Winner! of ENR's Photo Contest'. To the right of this are several smaller thumbnails categorized under 'Tourism', 'Transportation', and 'Construction'. At the bottom of the page are four tabs: 'Editor's Choice', 'Popular', 'Top Ten', and 'New!'. Below these tabs is a row of five webcam thumbnails with labels: 'Bilago, Las Vegas Las Vegas, NV', 'MSC Logistics Va... Vance, AL', 'Cuxhaven Webcam St... Cuxhaven, Germany', 'Downtown Gallatin... Gallatin, TN', and 'Downtown Budapest Budapest, Hungary'.