

## 8:05 am | S.C. Web cams among world's best

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Two South Carolina attractions -- a cockroach and zoo animals -- are among the most popular Web cam sites in the world for 2006.

The University of South Carolina's hissing cockroach and the Web cam at the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia were named among the "25 Most Interesting Webcams" by Earthcam, which bills itself as the leading network of live webcams from around the world.

It handles streaming video camera systems for clients such as NASA, Panasonic, Ford, Sprint, Toyota, Coca-Cola and many state and federal government agencies.

"Network camera technology and bandwidth continues to improve each year, enabling more streaming video with sharper images, and a much improved user experience overall," said Brian Cury, founder and CEO of [EarthCam](http://EarthCam.com).

The top 25 Web cams include cameras from Andorra, Canada, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Syria and the United States.

EarthCam's news release says this about the Roach Cam at the University of South Carolina: "If you can't visit them in person at the University of South Carolina, the research lab provides you with an up close and intimate webcam look at the 'family' life of giant Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches. If you're 'lucky,' you may catch one giving birth to nymphs who, when mature, can weigh as much as a fully grown mouse. Not recommended for viewing before lunch or dinner."

And the camera at the Riverbanks Zoo gets this note: "Whether it's penguins, sea lions, tigers or grizzly bears, watching the live and archived webcast activities of residents of Columbia, S.C.'s Riverbanks Zoo and Garden is a sight to see with the family. The live webcam views are the centerpiece of a website that makes learning about the world's wildlife fun. Check the animals of the month schedule on the 'Energetic Minds' section of the site."

Links to all 25 favorite sites are available at [www.earthcam.com/top25/2006](http://www.earthcam.com/top25/2006).

Others on the list:

- 2006 Winter Olympic Stadium (Torino, Italy)
- Andorramania (mountain views of the small European nation of Andorra)
- Baby Tiger Cam (Toronto Zoo)
- Beluga Whale Cam (Vancouver Aquarium, Canada)
- Catalina Island Cam (view of the harbor and other sites at Santa Catalina Island in California)
- Chicken Cam (a German site that links to cameras around the world, focusing on chickens)
- Eagle Cam (BioDiversity Research Institute in Maine)
- Egbert's Cam (Geodesic Dome and other sites at the Europa-Park in Germany)
- Fliim Laax Falera Weisse (multiple cameras at ski slopes in the European Alps)
- Jason's Fishcam (aquarium cameras)
- Key West Cam
- Live Monkey Cam (streaming video of Costa Rica's squirrel monkeys)
- NASA
- Okinawa (a network of 30 cameras from the island)
- Positano (breathtaking views of the coast and towns near Salerno in Italy)
- Sloppy Joe's Bar (the internationally known bar in Key West)
- Statue of Liberty
- Swiss Mountain (views of the Alps)
- Switchcam (a look at historic sites and other views from Zurich, Switzerland)
- Syria on the Internet
- Te Puia (various views of boiling springs and geysers from New Zealand)
- Turtle Bay Resort (Oahu, Hawaii)
- Wilderness Pines (snowfall cameras in Gaylord, Mich., where there's usually plenty of snow in winter).