El Paso Zoo
Education Resource Guide
2020

Photo courtesy Sarah Murphy
Planning Your Zoo Visit

Zoo Information
4001 E. Paisano
El Paso, Texas 79905
Phone 915-212-0ZOO (0966)
Fax 915-212-0252
elpasozoo.org
elpasozoo.home.blog/
Open Daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day)
9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Please Note:
You are welcome to bring your own food and drinks in the Zoo; however, glass and single-use straws are not permitted on Zoo grounds.

Check out our new programs highlighted in blue!

About the Zoo
The El Paso Zoo is arranged into three major areas: North and South America, Asia, and Africa. New at the Zoo, as of November 2019, is a 2.3-acre North America exhibit which features species of plants and trees found in the Chihuahuan Desert, a large rockwork structure to exhibit large cats and habitats for native desert animals. It hosts Mexican wolves, mountain lions, jaguars, pronghorn, coatis, prairie dogs, and many smaller animals.

The El Paso Zoo is a fun, unique, family-friendly experience on 35 acres of shaded landscape and naturalistic animal habitats. Our mission is to celebrate the value of animals and natural resources and to create opportunities for guests to rediscover their connection to nature. As an AZA-accredited zoo, we contribute to the quality of life and economic development; are an important educational resource, a leader in environmental awareness, conservation action, and endangered species preservation; and employ professionals that enrich our community.

What to Wear
The Zoo is an outdoor facility, so children should dress appropriately for the weather: closed-toe shoes, socks, sunglasses, hats, and sunscreen. Children may also bring a swimsuit to enjoy the Hunt Family Desert Spring splash pad.

Chaperones
Chaperones must accompany children at all times. We require one adult for every ten children.

Animals
When you register for your field trip, you can add Student and/or Adult AniMeals to make lunchtime easier! Request your AniMeals at least three weeks in advance. Payment must be received at least one week in advance.

Zoo Cafes
Passport Café and Grasslands Café offer a variety of lunch items, snacks and drinks. Hours vary by season, so make sure to check with Front Gate upon arrival.

Hunt Family Desert Spring
The splash pad offers a great place to splash around, relax, and cool off!

Gift Shop
Stop by Safari Outfitters Gift Shop to pick out a fun souvenir to take home. Located right by the Front Gate. You can also buy your train tickets and rent a stroller or wagon here.

African Star Train
Hop on the African Star Train and take a ride around Africa. Enjoy animals such as giraffes, zebras and more. Train tokens can be purchased at the Gift Shop.

Foster Tree-house Playground
This includes five tree houses blended into a natural setting for an imagination-filled “free-play”.

Hunt Family Endangered Species Carousel
The carousel features thirty hand-painted animals representing endangered species from around the world.

Copper Canyon Ropes Course
Grab a harness and experience high ropes climbing and agility on the new Copper Canyon Ropes Course featuring three levels of obstacles for guests of all ages! Sky Trail $8.00/ Members $7.00; Sky Tykes $5.00/ Members $4.50.

Water Fountains
Water fountains are located just inside the Front Gate, next to Passport Café, next to the prairie dog exhibit, and next to Grasslands Café.

Restrooms
Restrooms are located just inside the Front Gate, next to Passport Café, next to prairie dogs and next to Grasslands Café.

Wildlife Amphitheater
Check our program schedule for Wild Encounters and more happening in the amphitheater!

Animal Food
Please do not feed the animals. They are given specific and regulated diets to meet their nutritional needs. Outside food can make them sick.

Late Arrivals
If you have scheduled an education program and are running late, please call 915-212-2829, 2831, or 2871 to let us know. If after 30 minutes your group has not yet arrived, your program will be cancelled with no refund. We reserve the right to adjust program length depending on staff availability.

Addax
Spring Break Camp: Wildlife Warriors

Join us for a week of fun and learning at the El Paso Zoo, hosted by the Education team! For Spring Break Camp, we will be focusing on why animals and habitats become endangered, along with ways we can make a difference to save them. Live animal encounters, behind the scenes tours, games and activities will all be included in this NEW full day camp. Space is limited, so sign up soon to reserve your spot in Spring Break Camp: Wildlife Warriors!

Age Requirement: 11 - 14 years old
Dates: March 9-13 and March 16-20 (20 campers maximum per week)
Time: Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 4:00pm
Price: $198 for non-members (10% discount given to Zoo Society members and military)

Registration opens February 3rd, 2020!

Summer Camp: Junior Zoo Keeper

Summer break is getting a new look! This summer, the El Paso Zoo's Education team is introducing Summer Camp: Junior Zoo Keeper! Send your camper to spend the week with us learning about how to care for some of the biggest, scariest, furriest or tiniest animals in the world. Help our keepers clean an exhibit, prepare diets for our animals, and create enrichment during this full day camp. Space is limited, so sign up soon to reserve your spot in Summer Camp: Junior Zoo Keeper!

Age Requirement: 11 - 14 years old
Time: Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 4:00pm
Dates: June 1-5, 8-12, 15-19, 22-26, June 29- July 3, July 6-10, 13-17, 20-24, 27-31, August 3-7
Price: $198 for non-members (10% discount given to Zoo Society members and military)

Registration opens March 23rd, 2020!
Group Rates for Field Trips

Schedule Your Group Today!
Fill out our online request form at www.elpaso.org/learn/fieldtrips.
Space is limited to 300 students per 30 minutes, so sign up early to get your preferred date and time!

Tour the El Paso Zoo at your own pace and enjoy a discounted admission rate for qualified school groups. The Zoo is open daily (except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day) from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm (Admission gate is open 9:30 am to 4:00 pm), and takes approximately 3 hours to enjoy the entire Zoo!

Let the Zoo enhance your curriculum by signing up for a TEKS aligned and STEAM focused Zoo Adventure Program, where your students will get up close with live education animals and bio-facts** to help them learn about wildlife and wild places!

What qualifies as a school group?
LICENSED child daycare, head start, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, primary, secondary, high school, home school, special education and higher education (Universities/Community Colleges).

Discounted Rate for Field Trips*
Students High School and under-----------------$5.00
Higher Education entities-------------------------$7.50
Teachers/Chaperones (1 per 10 students) ------$7.50
Additional Chaperones-------------------------$12.00

*A reservation is required to receive the discounted rate, and request must be submitted at least three weeks in advance. Requests received under three weeks may not be possible. Please have ONE group leader who will collect ALL money and make ONE payment for the whole group on the reservation upon entrance. Anyone who does not enter WITH the group will be charged the full admission price.

** What is a bio-fact? The El Paso Zoo has many items, such as fur, feathers, skins and more that are used to give guests a closer look at animal features.

Curriculum Programs
- Add a fun and interactive Zoo classroom program to your field trip, giving your group the opportunity to learn about wildlife and wild places.
- Curriculum programs at the El Paso Electric Kalahari Research Center, NEW Lobo Vista Classroom or Ranch House, and El Paso Water Discovery Education Center include encounters with live education animals and opportunities to see and touch bio-facts from different species.
- All programs are TEKS aligned and STEAM focused to help you with your curriculum!
- Because these programs are charged per participant and space is limited, we ask that siblings enjoy the zoo with their parents while the program is being presented.

Price: $3.00 per student. Teachers – Free.
Reservations: Book online at www.elpasozoo.org/learn/field-trips

Group Programs
- Group programs offer a unique opportunity to see our animals in a different way! Some programs take guests behind the scenes to learn from our zookeepers, while others take you inside our animal exhibits!
- Minimum and maximum group sizes do apply.

Price: Varies by program
Reservations: Book online at www.elpasozoo.org/learn/adventure-programs

For all education programs, requests must be received at least 3 weeks prior to your visit. All programs must be paid for two weeks in advance. Requests received within three weeks may not be possible. Space is limited, so sign up early!
Check out the El Paso Zoo Education Blog for information about our programs, free teacher resources, and more! https://elpasozoo.home.blog/

**Scavenger Hunts!**
On this blog site, you will find scavenger hunts to keep your students active and learning while on their field trip to the El Paso Zoo. We also have a new Where Health Knows No Borders Outdoor Scavenger Hunt for each student when you arrive.

**Keyhole Gardening!**
Do some composting and gardening while you are at the Zoo and teach your students about keyhole gardens using a FREE activity kit. You must pre-register for this kit at least five business days before your trip. This activity includes everything you need for your students to compost and grow their own plant in your classroom: soil, oranges (for the peel), seeds, and more! Available while supplies last. A confirmation will be sent to you via email if a kit is available.
Curriculum Programs

The new Chihuahuan Desert Experience features an amazing outdoor classroom for your students to see our animals while they are learning! Add “Animals of the Chihuahuan Desert”, “Venomous Animals” or one of our new curriculum programs to your field trip to take advantage of our NEW Lobo Vista classroom—a space that offers views to our Mexican wolves and Thick-billed Parrots!

*Please be advised: in the event of inclement weather, your class will be held in the Ranch House. **Other classrooms include the Kalahari Research Station and the El Paso Water Discovery Education Center.

Group Size: No minimum or maximum for these programs, but large groups may be divided.

Animal Wrappers
Discover the different coverings of mammals, birds and reptiles and learn about how these coverings help animals survive in their habitats.
Time: 30-45 minutes
Ages: Day Care, Head Start, Pre-K to 3rd Grade

Animals of the Chihuahuan Desert
Get up close with OUR desert by learning about the animals that call the Chihuahuan Desert home.
Time: 45-60 minutes
Ages: K-12th Grade

In Your Backyard Series: A series of programs with a focus on Chihuahuan Desert ecosystems
1. What’s for Dinner
Examine the flow of energy and matter in the food web of the Chihuahuan Desert.
Time: 45-60 minutes
Ages: K-12th Grade

2. Nightlife in the Desert
Investigate how animal routines provide safety and opportunity away from the desert heat and sun.
Time: 45-60 minutes
Ages: K-12th Grade

3. You’ve Got to Move It!
Explore the ways animals move and learn how much we move like them.
Time: 45-60 minutes
Ages: K-12th Grade

Kalahari Safari
Learn about the animals and plants that call the Kalahari Desert home and find out how they are all connected and need each other to survive.
Time: 45-60 minutes
Ages: K-12th Grade

Creepy Crawly Superheroes
Superheroes have special powers. Learn how most are inspired by the insect world.
Time: 30-45 minutes
Ages: K-12th Grade

Our World Our Friend
Explore the levels of the rainforest and the importance of biodiversity. Focus on ways to conserve wildlife and wild places.
Time: 30-45 minutes
Ages: K-12th Grade

Animal Adaptations
All animals have special features that help them to survive. Explore these characteristics and behaviors with real live animals at the Zoo!
Time: 30-45 minutes
Ages: 1st- 8th Grade

Keyhole Gardens
Understand the importance of water for desert dwellers, while learning how to use water wisely through keyhole gardening.
Time: 45-60 minutes
Ages: 2nd- 8th Grade

Venomous Animals
Identify different venomous animals of the El Paso area and learn how they help balance our ecosystems.
Time: 30-45 minutes
Ages: 3rd Grade and up

Careers at the Zoo
Zoos offer several career choices. Students will learn about many of these zoo careers such as zookeeper, exotic animal veterinarian, education specialist, zoo director, and more!
Time: 30-45 minutes
Ages: 4th- 12th Grade

Biomes of the World
This interactive program will allow students to better understand how life is dependent upon and interacts with the non-living elements of an ecosystem.
Time: 45-60 minutes
Ages: 6th- 12th Grade
Is your group not able to go to the El Paso Zoo for a field trip, but you would still like the opportunity to see and learn about wildlife and wild places? Then an offsite Zoo Adventure Program is perfect for you!

**Offered from October through February**

**Classroom-Style Programs**

Classroom-style programs are the perfect fit for smaller groups or for rotating classes. Choose one of our curriculum programs to give your students the opportunity to learn about wildlife or wild places, all while seeing and touching real bio-facts and meeting live animal ambassadors. Depending on the group size, some animals may be touchable!

**Cost:** $115 for the first session; $75 per additional session

**Group Size:** Up to 40 students per session

**Requirements:** Only one curriculum program per day/visit, as each program requires different materials, animal ambassadors, and set-up.

Three sessions allowed per day—sessions must start within 30 minutes of each other

**Auditorium-Style Programs**

If you have a large group, the auditorium style program may be the perfect fit for your school. Choose one of our curriculum programs for your students to learn through meeting live animal ambassadors and seeing and touching real bio-facts!

**Cost:** $150

**Group Size:** 40+ students

**Requirements:** One session per day

*For the safety of the animals, the presentation room must be climate controlled (between 70-75 degrees F) and the maximum time we can spend at your school is 3 hours.

**Curriculum Programs Available:**

- Animal Wrappers
- Animals of the Chihuahuan Desert
- **NEW! In Your Backyard Series**
  - What's for Dinner?
  - Nightlife in the Desert
  - You've Got to Move It!
- Kalahari Safari
- **NEW! Creepy Crawly Superheroes**
- Our World Our Friend
- Animal Adaptations
- Keyhole Gardens
- Venomous Animals
- Careers at the Zoo
- Biomes of the World
- **NEW!** Zoo to You
  - Zoo to You is a great option if you are hosting an event and would like a visit from your El Paso Zoo animal ambassadors. During this 30-minute program, you will meet three animals from the Education Zoo, learning about the natural history of the species and conservation!

To register for your offsite Zoo Adventure Program, visit [www.elpasozoo.org/learn/offsite-classes](http://www.elpasozoo.org/learn/offsite-classes) and fill out the online request form.
Build Your Own Adventure!
Get ready for a WILD encounter with your El Paso Zoo animals! Create your own adventure and choose up to three animals to see behind the scenes. Meet with the zoo keepers to learn what it takes to care for the tallest, smallest, scariest or hairiest animals around.

- $45 per person for base tour which includes admission, water bottle and one Behind the Scenes Experience.
- $15 per person for each additional experience added.
- Minimum of 2 people per tour booked, maximums vary.
- Maximum number of guests is at one time. For larger groups, we can split them into 2 or more groups and have them doing encounters independently.
- Ages 6 years and up
- Advanced reservation required and payment due two weeks (10 business days) in advance

Choose from these animal areas for your own custom behind the scenes tour:

Elephant Encounter
Meet one of our gentle giants! Guests may experience an elephant bath, feed a treat to our girls and get an up close demonstration on how we train these giants to help us keep them healthy.

- Available daily from 9:30 am – 11:30 am
- 20-30 minutes
- Maximum of 6 guests

Grand Giraffe Encounter
Go behind the scenes to meet one of our giraffes up close and personal. Guests may have the opportunity to feed and learn all about the tallest member of the animal family. When one of these giraffes lowers its head down to your level you will soon realize the size of these beautiful creatures.

- Available daily at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm
- 20-30 minutes
- Maximum of 6 guests

Sun Bear Encounter
Guests are allowed to enter the back of the Sun Bear exhibit where they can get an up close and personal introduction to the training we do for Heliana each day. Observe her interactions with the trainers and the close bond they enjoy.

- Available Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 9:45 am, 12:45 pm or 1:00 pm
- 20-30 minutes
- Maximum of 6 guests per session/ one per day

"Who let the dogs out...?"
Enter the African WILD Dog Exhibit and place the dogs’ breakfast (chunks of meat) all around the exhibit. Once the guests are safely out of the exhibit and back on the viewing deck, the guests can give the command and we will "release the wild dogs" into their exhibit. Watch as the dogs energetically sniff, search and scarf down breakfast.

- Available daily at 8:30 am, 9:00 am or 9:30 am
- 20-30 minutes
- Maximum of 6 guests per session / one per day

Galapagos Tortoise Tour
Help hose down these gentle monsters (weather permitting), use salad tongs to feed them some vegetables, and give them a welcome shell scratch to experience the raw power of an 800-lb. bulldozer-like critter.

- Available anytime, daily
- 20-30 minutes
- Maximum of 8 guests

Hog-tastic Enrichment
Guests can hide special treats (produce) all around the exhibit. Once the guests are safely on the observation deck the Red River hogs are released and they perform a seek and destroy mission, like only Red River hogs can, to find all of the hidden treasures.

- Available anytime, twice daily
- 20 - 30 minutes
- Maximum of 10 guests
- Not recommended for small children

Earn your Stripes
Guests will be allowed to enter the training corral with the keepers and experience the conditioning session we perform with the zebras on a daily basis.

- Available daily from 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
- 20-30 minutes
- Maximum of 4 guests
Raptor Rehab
Guests get the rare opportunity to join our veterinary staff as they care for injured and orphaned hawks, owls and vultures brought to us from around the El Paso area. May include cleaning an animal enclosure, observing a bandage replacement, physical therapy and helping with x-rays. Finish the tour by meeting a Raptor Rehab success, one of our Education Raptors
- Actual tour dependent on case load
- Maximum of 4 guests
- Ages 12 and up

Animal Medical Center/Commissary
Guests are escorted behind the scenes to the Animal Medical Center to get an in-depth tour of the real “back of the house” where the magic happens. One of our veterinarians will give you a tour of the clinic, animal quarantine rooms and surgery center, where you will discover a fully functional animal hospital. As a bonus, you can get a tour of our animal commissary where we make up all of the diets for all of the animals.
- Available anytime, separately or together
- Subject to animal surgery schedule
- Maximum of 12 guests

Coati Encounter*
Help our zoo keepers get ready for the day with our coati! Guests will have the opportunity to assist in setting up breakfast or enrichment for our new coati. Once the exhibit is set up, guests will head out to the viewing area to see Ziggy or Shelby come out and find all of their tasty treats!
- Available daily at 9:15 am
- 20-30 minutes
- Maximum of 5 guests

Jaguar Encounter*
Head behind the scenes in our NEW Chihuahuan Desert exhibit to see a training session with one of our jaguars and learn about what it takes to care for these beautifully spotted cats at the Zoo. Afterwards, make your way outside to see our Jaguars in the Mountain.
- Available daily at 9:00 am
- 30-40 minutes
- Maximum of 10 guests

*Limited availability as the animals are getting used to their new homes and routine. Check our website in the future for additional behind the scenes opportunities with our new Chihuahuan Desert animals.
Have a Large group of 10+ people?

Then join us for a PRODUCE HUNT or ELEPHANT PLATFORM PROGRAM!

PRODUCE HUNT
Participate in a 30-minute experience inside our elephant exhibit helping zookeepers hide fruits, veggies and more! After the food is hidden, everyone then moves back into the main viewing area to watch the elephants find their treats!

ELEPHANT PLATFORM
Gather your group to go behind the scenes to the elephant platform to get an up-close view of our elephants from above! From the platform, you will have the opportunity to feed our elephant, get amazing photographs, and learn about elephants from our zookeepers.

Price: $7 per person, in addition to admission fees
Time: 30 minutes, 9:30am or 2:30pm
Age Requirement: 6 years and older
Group Minimum: 10 participants
Group Maximum: 60 participants for the Produce Hunt, 30 participants for Elephant Platform* There must be one adult/chaperone per 10 children under the age of 18 years old.

*Maximum number of guests is at one time. For groups larger than the maximum mentioned above, contact ZooEducation@elpasotexas.gov to inquire about program availability.

Sleepover Adventure
Have you ever wondered what happens to the animals when everyone has gone for the day and the Zoo is closed? Bring your pillow, toothbrush, and sleeping bag and spend the night at the Zoo to find out! Sleepovers include evening and early morning guided tours, live animal presentations, and so much more.

Pick from three exciting themes for your Sleepover Adventure: Animal Adaptations, Food Web, or Endangered Species. The theme you choose will be used throughout the evening to help you discover and learn about animals in the Zoo and in the wild!

To register for your Sleepover Adventure, visit our website and submit an online request form. Remember to have a primary and alternate date that works for your group.

Price: $675 for up to 15 participants, $45 each for additional participant
Maximum Group Size: 20 participants
For groups of 20+, please email ZooEducation@elpasotexas.gov for more information and to check availability.
Time: 6:00 PM – 9:30 AM
Age Requirement: 7 years and older
Deluxe Sleepover Adventure: Family Campout at the Zoo
Price: $100 per person (10% discount for Zoo members), limited availability
Time: 6:00 PM – 9:30 AM
Age Requirement: 7 years and older
Dates: April 4-5 and September 19-20

Come to the Zoo to sleep under the stars without the hassle of setting up camp!
- Tents will be provided and set up before you arrive
- Go on a guided hike around the Zoo to see what animals are on the prowl at night
- Meet animals up-close during live animal encounters
- Gather around a campfire to make s’mores
- Watch a movie before heading to bed
- Enjoy a delicious breakfast
- Go behind the scenes at the commissary and visit the elephants in the morning
- At 9:30 AM, stay and enjoy the Zoo during the day!

Night Prowl
Bring your family and friends to explore the Zoo after all the crowds have gone home for the night. Enjoy an animal encounter, go on a nocturnal guided hike, and help make some animal enrichment... all under the stars.
Price: $10 per person
Time: 2.5 hours, 7:00 pm-9:30pm
Age Requirement: All ages welcome*
Group Size: Minimum of 10 people, Maximum of 20 people

*Animal encounters sometimes include touchable animals. Children under 6 years of age are not permitted to touch reptile species, following Center for Disease Control Guidelines: https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/reptiles.html.

Badge Program
Earn your scout badge with up-close encounters with animals during this 2-hour program! Bring your whole troop. Choose from the following badges:

**Girl Scouts:**
- Eco-Learner
- Bugs
- Animal Habitats
- Animal Helpers

**Boy Scouts:**
- Fur, Feathers, and Ferns
- My Tiger Jungle Adventure
- Mammal Study
- Wildlife Conservation

Price: $15 per scout, in addition to admission fees
Time: 2 hours, typically 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Age Requirement: 5 years and older
Group Size: Minimum of six scouts, Maximum of 30 scouts

**Also great for scout groups:** Produce Hunt, Elephant Platform, and any curriculum program!
Make a difference, 
Round Up at the Zoo

You can help the El Paso Zoo fund conservation projects around the world to help Jaguars, Addaxes, and Bali Mynahs.