

Local Field Trip Invitation: Day Trip to

SACRAMENTO ZOO

Friday, January 24, 2025



What: Sacramento Zoo Visit; New Programs!

Why: January is a great time to visit the Zoo and its animal residents with a fine group of LHPC members and their friends. There are fewer crowds and fewer youngsters on school tours, allowing more animal viewing and photographing opportunities, more learning, and more fun in January as you walk around the grounds. Among many animals to photograph, flamingos and mongoose lemurs were born last summer. While they're not babies anymore, they're still small and have been out in their habitats for viewing.

ALSO, this day was selected to visit because it is a day when several Zoo animal enrichment and visitor learning events ("behind the scenes tours") are held, at designated times and for extra cost. For details, see below at "Special enrichment and learning event fees."

When: ↓

For the Zoo: Meet January 24, 2025, 9:00am recommended, at the Zoo entrance at its opening.

For Carpooling: If desired, gather to seek or offer carpooling from Orchard Creek sports area parking lot at 7:45am, wheels rolling at 8:05am.

For Breakfast: If desired, gather at Meridians for their fine breakfast at 7:00am. Their breakfast menu online:

<https://meridiansrestaurant.com/web/meridian-restaurant/menu>

NOTE: If weather reports close to the event make it likely that a Zoo visit will not be productive or rewarding, we may cancel the date and select a future date. In that event, LHPC will update its website and send out an email to the membership notifying everyone of the cancellation. Be sure to monitor your email and the website.

Where: Sacramento Zoo, inside Sacramento's Land Park in Sacramento, near Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road, just off the I-5 freeway south of downtown Sacramento. The Zoo has posted written directions on its website at <https://www.saczoo.org/visit/plan-your-zoo-visit/> The Zoo's entrance is on Land Park Drive.

[Note: The Zoo's mailing address does not take you to the front of the zoo, so it is not included here; do not plug its street address into your GPS.]

Travel time from Lincoln should be between 45 minutes and an hour depending on traffic from Highways 65 and 80. Add in time to park and arrive at the Zoo entrance.

Cost:

1. Standard individual admission fee varies by day ("dynamic pricing"), but January prices average approximately \$17.50 - \$22.00. Your payments will be made directly to the Zoo upon entering. Or, you

may purchase entrance tickets online in advance at <https://www.tickets.saczoo.org/calendar> .

Sacramento Zoo members should bring their membership card for their free entrance.

Note that Zoo membership is \$60pp/\$110 for two, one benefit of which is free zoo general admission. There is a discount for seniors 65 and older:

<https://www.saczoo.org/join-or-renew-membership> .

If you were to visit the zoo two to three times free with your new membership in the next year, you would have about made up the membership cost.

2. Special enrichment and learning event fees: These events require advance reservations and fee payment. These fees include Zoo admission, so do not separately purchase Zoo admission tickets if you have purchased an event admission. Fees vary by habitat and for members and nonmembers, between \$40 and \$300. Note: These tours are discounted 15% for zoo members for visits before January 31, 2025 (like our planned visit):

<https://www.saczoo.org/behind-the-scenes-tours>

→ However, this offer for membership purchase expires December 31, 2024.

Sacramento Zoo provides behind the scenes tours to specific habitats at specific times with varying activities. These include observing (and photographing!) and in a few cases, feeding, at the Outback, Cheetah, Giraffe & Zebra, Okapi, and Reptile sites. Review these pages and links included there for more background information and for registration and fee information:

<https://www.saczoo.org/behind-the-scenes-tours>

The Zoo also requires a completed Release of Liability form be brought to the event. The Release links are found on the registration pages for each event.

Note to photographers, it is likely that fences will intervene between the wildlife and visitors even in some behind the scenes tours.

Parking: The Zoo does not have designated parking, but parking is free throughout the surrounding Land Park. You may park in legal areas on the street throughout Land Park or in the lot across the street. Please allow plenty of time to find parking and make your way to the entrance.

Timing: We want to enter the Zoo when it opens, as that is generally the best time to view animal activity in the public enclosures and often is when Zoo staff is moving animals to their exhibits as staff cleans cages in the back. Also, parking is easiest to find early in the morning. However, you may arrive on your own at any time during Zoo operating hours.

You are free to remain at the Zoo during zoo hours as long as you would like and leave when you, or your carpool driver, would like. Zoo hours are 9:00am - 3:00pm. Once entering the Zoo, guests have in and out privileges during the day by getting their hand stamped as they leave. It is estimated that many of our members not undertaking afternoon tours may be ready to leave around 2:00pm.

Walking: The Zoo overall has many trails to walk at your own pace, primarily flat with some slight rises. Most paths are paved. The zoo is wheelchair accessible. Wheelchairs are available for rent.

Restrooms: Available, and are indicated on maps of the Zoo layout posted on the Zoo grounds or handed out at the entrance or available here: <https://www.saczoo.org/plan-your-visit#directions> .

Activities:

The Zoo cares for nearly 400 animals in over 120 species. Check out the various animals listed on their website:

<https://www.saczoo.org/animals>

There are no guarantees on exactly what animals will be on view on any particular day. It depends largely on the environment, such as weather, and animals' behavior, health or other needs.

Non-commercial photography for personal use is allowed in public areas, but you must stay safely behind any barriers and remain in the public areas at all times. Be sure to bring your zoom lenses and cell phones if you have them.

Commercial photography and filming requests must go through the Zoo's Public Relations Department.

The photograph at the top of this announcement was taken at the Sacramento Zoo from a public viewing area, albeit some time ago.

See Zoo general visiting policies and requirements at the end of this Announcement.

Clothing & Weather:

As you know, January temperatures can be quite chilly. Please dress for the weather, including hooded rain jackets for inclement weather.

We recommend closed-toe shoes. There could be wet or uneven surfaces, and you may be walking through a variety of ground such as dirt, pebbles or bark chips.

Meals: There are no outside restaurants immediately adjacent to the Zoo. The Zoo has a café for burgers, pizza, and hotdogs, in addition to snacks.

KAMPALA CAFÉ

For Angus beef burgers, oven roasted pizzas, kids' meals, and more. The Café opens at 11:00am.

Snack stands around the park are usually open. However, during the winter season, it is not guaranteed, and one or more may be closed on any particular day.

<https://www.saczoo.org/snacks-souvenirs>

Questions: If you have questions, feel free to email me Rick Maness at rbmaness@aol.com or text or call me at 916-838-0289.

More Zoo Information

<https://www.saczoo.org/>

<https://www.saczoo.org/plan-your-visit>

ZOO VISITING POLICIES

- **Face coverings are recommended, but not required, outdoors.**
Face coverings are highly recommended but not required indoors regardless of vaccination status.
By entering the zoo, you are attesting to your compliance with this policy.
- The zoo requests not to visit if you feel ill. Please maintain a six-foot distance between your group and others when visiting.
- Please call the Member & Visitor Services Office at 916-808-5888 to purchase discounted tickets for individuals with disabilities.

Prohibited Items:

The following items are prohibited from the zoo:

Balloons, pets, ball playing, bicycles, frisbees, kite flying, mini motorized vehicles, loud radios, roller blades, skateboards, tricycles, skates, alcohol, and glass containers.

Sacramento Zoo Service Animal Policy

Service dogs, as defined by the ADA, are welcome at the Sacramento Zoo, under the following conditions.

Emotional support animals as well as companion, comfort or pet animals are not allowed entry into the zoo.

Service animals in training are permitted into the zoo with prior notification to the Zoo. (Call 916-808- 5888 in advance of your visit.) <https://www.saczoo.org/plan-your-visit> (attractions → service animal policy tabs)

Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability prevents using these devices. Individuals must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal or other effective controls at all times. The care and supervision of a service animal is solely the responsibility of the animal's owner.

Service dogs must be house broken. Dogs may leave the zoo with owner for this purpose and then return.

Upon arrival at the zoo, Guest Services staff will engage service dog owners to confirm the dog's status and to orient the dog's owner for a fun, safe and rewarding visit to the Zoo.

For the health and well-being of the animals who call the zoo home, certain restrictions for services animals may apply.

Some zoo animals may have a stress response to the presence of service dogs. Please remove your dog from any animal or animal habitat if zoo animals are responding to the presence of a service dog.

Service dogs that are having trouble or displaying adverse behaviors may be asked to leave zoo grounds or be placed in an on-site kennel. (The Zoo has one kennel available, “first come first served.”)

All service dogs should be kept 10 feet away from any free-roaming animals, ambassador animals or animals that are out on zoo grounds for presentations.

Service dogs should be kept 15 feet away from the snow leopard, lion, cheetah, and chimpanzee exhibits.

Additional animal habitats or areas of the zoo may be designated as off limits for service dogs. Guest Services staff will inform dog owners of any restrictions during the entry orientation.

