



Zoo FAQs! General Logistics



I can't wait to visit the Zoo with my students—how do I make this trip happen?

First, [make a reservation](#)! The San Francisco School Groups section of this page outlines admission prices and group rates.

The Zoo seems like a really big place, especially for little legs. Is there a way to avoid all of the walking?

In our experience, the Zoo is a place that often inspires remarkable bouts of energy. However, seeing all of the animals at the Zoo in one day is probably not realistic. We suggest examining the layout of the Zoo to plan animal enclosure visits according to student interest priority or a theme of your choosing.

Can the school bus park in the Zoo lot?

School buses should park on Sloat Boulevard. There is a bus loading zone on Sloat Boulevard at 47th Avenue. A large, free parking lot is located at the intersection of Sloat Boulevard and Highway 35.

Where can we eat lunch?

If you are bringing lunch to the Zoo, there are many lawns and open spaces where you can enjoy your food. Please consider talking to your students about how to pack a low-waste lunch. At the Zoo, Patas Lawn and Playfield Lawn are excellent places to spread out for lunch time! If you would like to purchase food at the Zoo, we have three cafés: Leaping Lemur, Terrace, and Playfield. You can find more information, including café operating hours, [here](#).

Besides walking around the Zoo, what else is there to do?

There are various animal feedings, animal enrichment deliveries, and keeper talks throughout the day. Please visit [our website](#) for the most updated information about the Zoo's agenda on the day of your visit. You can also check our [calendar](#) for special events and happenings.

Where are the lions? What about the giraffes? Lemurs? We suggest taking a peek at the Zoo map before your visit in order to familiarize yourself with the layout of the exhibit spaces. You can find it online [here](#).



Zoo FAQs! Student Experiences



For some students, our trip to the Zoo may be their first exposure to a place that is not home or school. How can I best prepare my students for the field trip?

Especially for younger students, it is important to prepare them for the possibilities of what they might see. This could include: reading books with accurate portrayals of animals found at the Zoo, observing animals at school and talking about what they found, and reviewing some basic trip logistics (when they will arrive, where they will eat lunch, when they will take bathroom breaks, etc.). For students of all ages, connecting to common or prior classroom experiences might also be helpful. Explain that students will be together while exhibit exploring, they will eat lunch together, and the same rules and techniques you use in the classroom will still apply.

How can our class best respect the animals?

The magnificent animals in the Zoo are wild and possess all their natural instincts.

You are a guest in their home. They are sensitive and have feelings.

PLEASE don't tap on glass, cross barriers, throw anything into exhibits, make excessive noise, tease, call out to them, or mimic the noises they make. Take special note of the exhibits with the whisper sign; these animals prefer quiet voices! **Please report any disturbance to the wildlife to (415) 753-7069**

immediately. Coins in water are very harmful to animals, so please don't toss coins into exhibits, pools or streams. Instead, donate your change to conservation efforts at donation boxes around the Zoo.



What if a child is lost? What if our group needs first aid?

It is helpful to have some sort of class or school identifier with every student (nametags, shirts, bandanas, etc.) in case a child becomes separated from your group. Guest Services, the Gatehouse, and security guards will all be able to provide you with first aid.