

Philadelphia Zoo Itinerary

Fan Favorites

PHILADELPHIA ZOO

3400 West Girard Avenue ■ Philadelphia, PA 19104-1196
philadelphiazoo.org

Welcome to the Philadelphia Zoo! This itinerary is meant to be a suggested route for you to follow while you are visiting the Zoo with your school group. It will highlight when there is a bathroom or food nearby so you can take advantage of any of our amenities and plan ahead for stops. Each itinerary begins at North Gate, the main entrance to the Zoo, and is designed to take about 3 hours to complete.

As soon as you enter the Zoo, you should pick up a map. It will help you navigate as well as give you information about the daily happenings at the Zoo.

→From North Gate, head through the turnstiles.

Bathroom stop: Immediately after the turnstiles, head to your right.

→Continue going straight, past the first building.

Food stop: Impala Plaza is open seasonally and sells soft pretzels and coffee, as well as other snacks.

→Stay straight until you reach KidZooU, which will come up on your right.

Stop 1: KidZooU

Highlights: Head towards the back of KidZooU to visit our Barnyard. Students can touch and interact with goats and sheep and may even catch a glimpse of a lamb or kid!

Bathroom stop: There are two bathrooms in KidZooU – one is outside, just behind the pigeon coop; the other is inside the Education Center in the hallway connecting both galleries.

→After leaving KidZooU (through the same way you entered), turn left and look to your right to see the entrance to the Reptiles and Amphibians House.

Stop 2: Reptiles and Amphibians House

Highlights: Don't miss our Galapagos and Aldabra tortoises, some of the oldest residents of the Zoo. Also check out our Nile crocodiles, American alligators, king cobras, red-eyed tree frogs, and our alligator snapping turtle.

→Exit the Reptiles and Amphibians House through the doors closest to the giant tortoises. Make a left and head straight down the Main Path. When you see a statue of a lion come up on your right, make a left and travel that path to the entrance of PECO Primate Reserve.

Stop 3: PECO Primate Reserve

Highlights: Students love to see some of our closest relatives, gorillas and orangutans. Our gorillas can often be found resting or searching for food. Our youngest orangutan, Batu, is constantly learning and trying to play with her parents. In warmer weather, these species may be outside in Great Ape Trail, our elevated pathway for gorillas, gibbons, and orangutans.

→Exit PECO Primate Reserve through the back doors and turn right to meet back up with the Main Path.

Bathroom stop: On your way from PECO to the Main Path, you will find a bathroom on your left.

→Head to your left and across the path and make a right to enter Big Cat Falls.

Stop 4: Big Cat Falls

Highlights: Lions, tigers, leopards, and jaguars can be found in the habitats in Big Cat Falls. Be sure to look up – cats could be in Big Cat Crossing as well! Our cats move around throughout Big Cat Falls, so check each exhibit to see where they are today.

→Exit Big Cat Falls after the Tiger habitat and make a right back onto the Main Path.

Food stop: Tiger Terrace will be on your left. This eatery is open year-round. While indoor seating is available, it can get crowded.

→Head straight on the Main Path until you see Bird Lake on your left. Turn left and follow the path that goes around the lake until you reach McNeil Avian Center.

Stop 5: Bald Eagles

Highlights: Ritz and Glory, our two bald eagles, can be found here all year round. They have both sustained injuries that make them non-releasable to the wild.

Bathroom stop: Directly across from the bald eagle habitat is a restroom.

→Continue down the Main Path for some time, eventually reaching a hill.

Food stop: On your way down this path, you will see an ice cream stand, a large eatery, and an Icee station. All these locations are seasonal and may not be open during the winter months or in inclement weather.

Bathroom stop: Just before you reach the hill, there are bathrooms to your left across from Colobus monkeys.

Stop 6: Cheetah Run

Highlights: Our two cheetahs, Spidi and Nyika, live in this habitat together. They can often be seen lounging in the sun or on the hay inside their hut.

→Continue past the cheetah habitat until you see Carnivore Kingdom appear on your right.

Stop 7: Carnivore Kingdom

Highlights: Carnivore kingdom houses some of our most popular animals, including red pandas, giant river otters, and black footed cats.

→Exit Carnivore Kingdom and make a right on the Main Path. Continue straight ahead until you reach African Plains.

Stop 8: African Plains

Highlights: In warm weather, you can see hippos, giraffes, zebras, and a rhino. These animals do not enjoy very cold weather and will often be inside for the winter months.

→ Continue straight ahead until you see a large pool on your left. Stop by to visit our polar bears.

Stop 9: Bear Country

Highlights: Our polar bears are named Klondike and Coldilocks. They have been at the Zoo since 1980!

→Continue on the Main Path from the polar bear exhibit.

Bathroom stop: Turn left at the bear statue and they are immediately to your left in the rock wall.

→After turning left at the bear statue, continue straight up this path to reach our penguins.

Stop 10: Bird Valley

Highlights: Humboldt penguins are an endangered species of penguin. Contrary to popular belief, penguins do not always live in cold weather. In fact, of the 17 species of penguin, only 3 live in cold weather all year.

→From the penguin habitat, continue up Bird Valley until you reach the Main Path. Turn right and head straight until you reach North Gate. Take another bathroom break or stop by the ZooShop before meeting your bus on 34th St.