

Philadelphia Zoo Itinerary

On the Brink

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 (we will come back to it later).

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 see rare breeds of goats, sheep, and chickens. One breed of goat, the Arapawa, has only 400 individuals remaining in the world. You may be able to catch an educator or keeper in here talking with guests or working with an animal. Check your Zoo map for this season's Keeper talks.

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), make a right and head straight down the path. When you see a statue of a lion appear on your right, make a left to head into PECO Primate Reserve.

Stop 2: PECO Primate Reserve

Highlights: Orangutans are a critically endangered primate from Southeast Asia. Their population has declined by over 80% in the last 30 years, mostly due to habitat loss for the palm oil industry. You may be able to catch an educator or keeper in here talking with guests about primates. Check your Zoo map for this season's Keeper talks.

→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 3: Big Cat Falls

Highlights: Amur tigers and Amur leopards are among the most critically endangered species in the world. There are fewer than 400 Amur tigers and around 50 Amur leopards living in the wild. 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 4: McNeil Avian Center

Highlights: Here, students can see Micronesian kingfishers and Guam rails. These birds went extinct in the wild in the early 1980s. At the time, there were fewer than 30 of each species left. The Philadelphia Zoo brought all of them back to the United States to enter a breeding program, and they are slowly rebuilding.

Bathroom stop: There are bathrooms inside McNeil Avian Center.

→Exit McNeil Avian Center and make a left. Make your next left and head to the bottom of this path. At the intersection, make a right, then a quick left into Carnivore Kingdom.

Stop 5: Carnivore Kingdom

Highlights: Giant river otters are an endangered species from South America. There are likely fewer than 1,000 of them living in the wild. The Philadelphia Zoo was the first North American Zoo to successfully breed this species.

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

Stop 6: African Plains

Highlights: White rhinos nearly went extinct in the early 1900s. There were about 50 individuals left. At the last survey, taken in 2010, there were over 20,000 Southern white rhinos in the wild – an enormous success. Unfortunately, nearly all other rhinos are critically endangered and face many threats, particularly poaching.

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

Stop 7: Bear Country

Highlights: Polar bear populations have been steadily decreasing for decades, mostly due to habitat loss. Polar bears depend on sea ice in order to hunt, and every year there is less sea ice than the year before.

→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.

→Stay left at the fork to head up the hill. You will see a small white house on your left. Continue straight ahead. At the next intersection, make a right and you will see the Rare Animal Conservation Center appear ahead and to your left.

Stop 8: Rare Animal Conservation Center

Highlights: Nearly every species in this building is threatened with extinction, including titi monkeys, blue-eyed lemurs, and douc langurs (which can only be seen here at the Philadelphia Zoo). Rodrigues fruit bats are currently critically endangered, but they have increased drastically over the last several decades. At one point, there were approximately 70 bats remaining on the island of Rodrigues. Due to conservation efforts by the Philadelphia Zoo and partnering institutions, this species now numbers over 4,000 individuals.

→Exit the Rare Animal Conservation Center through the doors near the fruit bats and you will find yourselves back at the entrance to the Zoo. Take another bathroom break or stop by the ZooShop before meeting your bus on 34th St.