Koala Photo Encounter

Guests are currently required to wear a mask during the Koala Photo Encounter.

Updated 11/2020
Sensory Key

There are lots of things to see here. It might be bright or hurt my eyes in places where I see this. I can wear sunglasses or cover my eyes.

There are lots of things to hear here. It might be loud in places where I see this. I can wear headphones or cover my ears if it gets too loud.

When I see this there will be things I can taste here. I do not have to put anything in my mouth if I do not want to.

There might be a strong smell in places where I see this. I can hold my nose or cover my nose with something that smells good.

There are lots of things to touch here. There might be things that I feel uncomfortable touching when I see this. I do not have to touch anything that I do not want to.
ZooTampa’s Modified Operation Plan during a Pandemic.

- The park, shops, and restaurants are operating at limited capacity.
- Reservations/Pre-purchased tickets are not required, but are recommended and the only way to guarantee entry.
- Touchless transactions will be available and encouraged.
- Always maintain 6 feet distance between groups.
- Masks are NOT required to outdoor areas of the Zoo except to participate in Signature Encounters and Giraffe Meet and Greet.
- Masks are required at any indoor location on Safari Expedition.
- Handwashing and sanitation stations have been increased throughout the Zoo. Please wash hands frequently using soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Temperature checks are conducted at the entrance. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4F will not be permitted entry.
- If you are feeling sick, please return home and seek medical care.
- Rides are sanitized between use and are operating at limited capacity.
- Some attractions may be closed.
You will notice circle signs that say “Please stay 6 feet apart”, they signs are to help ZooTampa ensure we have lots of space between people.
We are going to the Koala Photo Encounter.

The Koala habitat is in Wallaroo Station. We can get there by following the map and signs.
Before we start the tour, an employee will check our name off a list and the animal care employee will go over the rules and answer any questions we have.
While we wait for the tour to begin, we can put our face masks on. Face masks help keep the people and animals safe.
Koala Photo Tour

Before we can go into the koala habitat, there will be a talk about koalas. I will use my listening ears to learn about the animals. If I have questions, I can raise my hand after the talk.
If there are other people I might have to wait my turn. That’s okay, everyone will get a chance to meet the koalas. While I wait, our guide will talk about the koalas. If I have questions, I can raise my hand and ask questions after the talk.
When it is our turn we will go through the gate and meet up with the animal care staff at the habitat entrance. The animal care employee will ask us to walk across a shallow black footbath with a little sanitizing solution in it. The solution will help keep the koalas healthy. If I do not want to walk through the black footbath, I can ask the animal care staff for booties I can wear over my shoes.
The animal care employee will tell us when we can enter the habitat and show us where to stand while we are waiting for our turn for photos. I will use my walking feet while in the koala habitat.
If I would like, I can take photos of the koala. I must keep my hands away from the koala. Koalas are not for touching. The animal care employee will be nearby to answer any questions I have.
We will get our picture taken by a professional photographer.

I must stay at least 6 feet away from the koalas. The photographer will tell us where is best to stand.
The koalas are free to move around. If a koala makes me nervous, I can always take a step back. When a koala is walking, I will make sure to follow the directions of the animal care employee.
After I am finished meeting the koalas, I will exit the habitat with the animal care employee. If I want to wash my hands I can do so in the Wallaroo Station bathrooms.
We will then continue our visit at ZooTampa at Lowry Park.
ZooTampa at Lowry Park has teamed up with the Center For Autism & Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida to provide support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism and related disabilities. Please utilize the resources provided to properly plan for your visit to ZooTampa at Lowry Park.

We also recognize the support of Autism Shifts, The Learning Academy, Autism Speaks and the Diversity Action Coalition and applaud their efforts to promote inclusive experiences.”