Manatee Critical Care Center

Guests are currently required to wear a mask during the Manatee Critical Care Center tour.

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 Manatee Critical Care Center.

The Manatee Critical Care tour meets at the Manatee Hospital Overlook on the Florida Boardwalk. We can get there by following the map and signs.
When we get to the Manatee Hospital Overlook, we will meet up with our guide.
We might need to wait for other people to join us. Sometimes we will not wait long, other times we might need to wait for a long time. That’s okay, we will still be able to see the manatees.
Once everyone is here our guide will begin the tour.

If I have any questions during the tour I will wait until after the guide has finished talking about the animal to raise my hand and ask.
The manatees in the critical care center might be eating, resting, or swimming. They might be hard to see at times. That’s ok, if we cannot see the manatees now we can see them in the Manatee Tunnel after the tour.
When we are done talking about the manatees visible from the overlook, our guide will take us through a gate to go see the critical care center. I will use my walking feet while in the critical care center.

Sometimes the critical care center might be loud. That’s ok, I can cover my ears with my hands or wear headphones.
While we are in the critical care center there might be red lines on the ground. These lines show us where we should and should not stand. Our guide will tell us what side of the line we need to be on.
We should *not* try to lean over the pool walls or touch the manatees.
Our guide will introduce us to one of the Animal Care staff. The Animal Care staff member will talk to us about a few of the manatees.

If I have any questions during the tour I will wait until after the Animal Care staff member has finished talking about the animal to raise my hand and ask.
When the Animal Care staff member is done speaking our guide will lead us back out the gate and into the main part of the zoo.

Our guide will ask if there are any last questions. If we have questions we can raise our hand and wait for the guide to call on us, then we can ask our questions.

When we are done, we can 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.”