



Visiting Blackpool Zoo

A Guide for Schools and Groups

To help plan your trip, we've put together some information that we think might come in helpful to make your day out as stress free as possible. We'll explain what to expect when you arrive, helpful hints for your visit and our visitor code.

Before you arrive

Each school that has booked a visit is entitled to a pre-visit to Blackpool Zoo. This is to be used to familiarise yourself with the layout of the zoo, its facilities and to assist you in planning your day.

The visit is valid for up to 2 teachers/group leaders who are part of the pre-booked visit and can be arranged by contacting the Education Department on 01253 830805 or zoo.school@blackpoolzoo.org.uk.

On arrival

During busy times coaches are directed to the free coach park and met by one of our Education Officers. A member of the Education Team will escort your group to the schools entrance.

Please make sure that your group leader has the correct information regarding the number of children and adults to give to our admissions team at the schools entrance, who will process your booking. Payment can be made by card or cash. Schools can also pay by cheque or on invoice.

At this time you will be asked for a contact mobile telephone number, which will be given maps, talk times and details of any educational sessions you have booked will be confirmed.

You will then be shown to the Darwin Centre, where you may leave your packed lunches (we cannot take responsibility for any items left here). Toilets are conveniently situated next to the Darwin Centre.

At quieter times, your coach driver should follow the signs to our free coach park. Your group leader should go to Reception, which is located at the front of the main entrance, for your booking to be processed.

Eating arrangements

Your group may eat their packed lunches at any of the outdoor picnic areas, lawns or arenas around the zoo. Please be aware that as we are located by the sea, there is a presence of seagulls that may want to join your picnic.

Please use the rubbish bins provided and leave the areas tidy.

The Darwin Centre can be used for indoor picnics and is available on a first come first served basis. If it is raining, please speak with an Education Officer as we may be able to arrange other undercover areas for you. We thank you in advance for your patience on busy and wet days.

Our catering team can provide hot or cold lunches from £3.45 per person – for details and to book please contact the Education Department on 01253 830805 or zoo.school@blackpoolzoo.org.uk.

Sea Lion Display

Our most popular attraction is the Sea Lion Display. During the spring and summer terms an additional display is put on to ensure all school groups can attend. These are very popular so please arrive earlier to get the best spot.

Gift Shop

We do have a well-stocked gift shop in the Main Entrance and a smaller seasonal shop located at the Amazonia Exhibit. We ask that you visit the shops in smaller groups across the day, which will help provide a more pleasant visit.

To save time and to make it easier for you, you can pre-book discounted goody bags including animal print pencil, pad and eraser for £2.50. To pre-book please contact the Education Department on 01253 830805 or zoo.school@blackpoolzoo.org.uk.

Health and Safety

The safety of all our visitors is our primary concern. Please visit the Health & Safety page on our website for more information on this topic including First Aid and Risk Assessment Guidelines.

Schools and Groups Visitor Code

Please follow these guidelines to make your day even more enjoyable and fun for yourselves and other visitors.

Keep our animals healthy – Do not feed any of our animals.

Keep our animals happy – Do not taunt the animals or disturb them by running, shouting or banging on glass.

Stick to the paths – Do not cross any safety barriers.

Keep our dinosaurs safe – Do not allow children to climb/play on them.

Help keep the zoo tidy – Please use the litter bins or recycling bins provided.

Be clean – Make sure you use hand wash dispensers around the exhibits and always wash your hands before eating.

Keep children safe – Children must stay with the accompanying adults in their group.

Further Assistance

Should you require any further assistance before your visit, please feel free to contact our Education Department on 01253 830805 or zoo.school@blackpoolzoo.org.uk.

If you require assistance on the day (including any help reporting and finding lost children or lost property) please feel free to speak to any member of staff. We have a reception at the front of the Main Entrance, and staff can always be found at Admissions, Shops and Cafes. You will also see many staff around the park, all of whom will carry a radio and will be happy to help.