

Going to the
**Sensory-Friendly
Animal Insider**
at
Busch Gardens Tampa



Busch
Gardens

Notes for Caregivers

- Reservations are available online in advance or at the park until capacity with a maximum of **12 guests**.
- Park admission is not included and is required to participate in this experience.
- This tour is about **30 minutes** in a classroom setting with the opportunity for multi-sensory experiences.
- Please arrive to the **Animal Interactions & Tours building** in Nairobi 15 minutes prior to tour start time for check-in with park ambassador.
- Restrooms and water are available at the tour check-in location.
- Due to the nature of being at an amusement park, the environment can be noisy and crowded. Guests are encouraged to bring any personal sensory related tools for their visit at Busch Gardens.
- A quiet space and limited number of sensory related tools are available by request for the duration of the tour.





Download our free Busch Gardens App!

- Easily navigate the park
- View ride wait times
- Purchase additional experiences

SHOPPING

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 Emporium, Nomad's Market, Bulk-A-Bear, Nature's Kingdom & Adventure Photos | 7 Tiger Treasures |
| 2 Iron Screen Gifts and Photos | 8 Congo River Outfitters |
| 3 Souvenirs | 9 Painted Camel Soular |
| 4 Sesame Photos (Subject Times) | 10 Caravan Crossing |
| 5 Abby Cadabby's Treasure Hut | 11 Cheekah Gifts |
| 6 Karibu Marketplace | 12 Cobra's Crystal Marketplace |
| | 13 Serengeti Photos |

DINING

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Goshier Coffee | 9 Penelope Place |
| 2 Zagora Cafe & Market | 10 Twisted Tails Pretzels |
| 3 Moroccan Delights | 11 Dragon Fire Grill and Pub |
| 4 Springs Taproom | 12 Ribbi's Bakery |
| 5 Refresh Market | 13 Kenya Karibee |
| 6 Zambian Smokehouse | 14 Cheekah Snacks |
| 7 Shofko Bites | 15 Goshier Pizzeria |
| | 16 Serengeti Snacks |

ANIMAL HABITATS

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Gorilla & Chimpanzee | 7 Animal Connections |
| 2 Kangaroos | 8 Penguin Point |
| 3 Lion Landings | 9 Hippo, Rhino, Lion and Muskies |
| 4 Leopards and Tigers | 10 Cheekah Run |
| 5 Asian Elephants | |
| 6 Animal Care Center | |

ENTERTAINMENT

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Moroccan Palace | 4 Stanleyville Theatre |
| 2 Event Pavilion | 5 Pantopia Theatre |
| 3 Sassy Gay Theatre | 6 Dragon Fire Grill Theatre |

SCAN FOR ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Show times are provided in the event of inclement weather, mechanical or technical difficulties, and unforeseen circumstances.

LEGEND

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Automated Teller Machine | Charging Station | Stroller & Wheelchair Rental | Package Pickup |
| Designated Smoking Area | Restrooms | Handicapped-Accessible Seating | Quick Queue Kiosks |
| All-Ges Lockers | Companion Restrooms | Adventure Photos | AED Locations |
| First Aid | Senior Animal Relief Area | Wi-Fi Zone | Cash-to-Card Kiosks |

<https://buschgardens.com/tampa/park-info/park-map/>

Expectations for the Sensory-Friendly Animal Insider

- I will stay with my group at all times
- I will go to more than one location
- I will follow directions
- I will keep my hands and feet to myself unless I have permission to touch an animal or materials
- I will use gentle touch on animals
- I will use my quiet voice when in the classroom

When it is time for my tour,
I will go with my group to the
Animal Interactions & Tours building
to meet the zoo keeper.





I will patiently wait with my group for the **zoo keeper** and other guests under the tent.

I might hear **loud sounds** or be near **other people**.

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I can get a **drink of water** and go to the **restroom** while I wait for the tour to start.

I might have to **wait in a line** if other people are also getting a drink or visiting the restroom.



The zoo keeper will ask everyone to use **hand sanitizer** before going to the classroom. I can ask to **wash my hands** in the restroom if I do not like hand sanitizer.

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When the zoo keeper is ready and all of the other people have arrived, I will **stay with my group** to go to the **classroom.**

I might hear **loud sounds** or be in a **crowd** on the sidewalks.



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When I am in the classroom, I will sit on a **chair, carpet square, or bean bag chair.**

I can move between the seats as long as I do not approach the animals.



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Tenrec



Macaw

I will see animals and hear the zoo keepers talk about each one.



Porcupine



Tortoise

I might see a mammal, a bird, or a reptile.

I might see some small animals or some bigger animals.

I might get permission to gently touch an animal or have to keep my hands to myself.



Snake



Opossum

I might hear an animal make a **loud noise**.
I can wear my own **headphones** or ask the
zoo keeper to borrow a pair.

I might **smell** things that are different.
I can try breathing out of my mouth.



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If I am allowed to **touch** the animals,
I will be **gentle** and follow directions
from the zoo keeper.

I will only touch the animals when the
zoo keeper gives permission.

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I can interact with the **sensory table** at any time during the tour.

I might have to **share** with other people in the classroom.





If I need a break during the tour,
I can go with someone from my
group and a Busch Gardens
employee to a quiet space.

I will follow all safety signs.

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When the tour is over, I will leave the classroom with my group.

The zoo keepers will ask everyone to **wash their hands** at the restroom. This is very important after interacting with animals.

I might stay at Busch Gardens with my group or I might go home.



This narrative was created in partnership with the
Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at CARD-USF.

You can learn about more here:

[CARD](#)

