



Educational Tours Guided Tours at the Erie Zoo

Guided tours are walking adventures that take your group of 25 or fewer to the animals' exhibits to observe firsthand the unique behaviors and adaptations of the creatures of the Erie Zoo. Tours are best suited to school-aged groups and adults and **last approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour**. We can tailor a tour to suit your group's educational needs.

Cost: \$45 per group of 25 or fewer. \$40 per additional group from the same school on the same day. To schedule, call Kim at (814) 864-4091 x247 or email kbowes@eriezoo.org

African Adventure: (K-Adult) Discover the unique habitats of Africa from the savannahs to the Sahara as you explore some of the exhibits of the Kiboka Outpost, main building, and zoo grounds. Touchable artifacts and biofacts make this tour a unique experience.

Amazing Animal Adaptations: (K-Adult) Prehensile tails and tongues; hooved, webbed and clawed feet; teeth for gnawing, biting and grooming- animals are amazing in their many features that enable them to cope with life in their habitats. This tour will help you recognize the use of some animals' more amazing adaptations.

Beastly Behaviors: (6th -12th) Why do animals do the things they do? Your group will discover that animal behaviors help the animal to find food, avoid becoming food, interact in their social groups and continue their species as we observe and discuss behaviors of some of the animals at the Erie Zoo.

Crazy for Cats: (K- Adult) Learn about some of the unique characteristics of our cats at the Erie Zoo!

Plantastic Tour: (6th-Adult) Believe it or not, around 1,000 plant species call the Erie Zoo home. Explore the plant-life of the Erie Zoo's botanical gardens, greenhouse, and exhibits in the guided tour complete with fun sensory activities tailored to the audience. Perfect for Garden Clubs.

Predators Tour: (K- Adult) Tigers, African painted and penguins, Oh my...these are just a few of the Erie Zoo predators. Learn about the special adaptations that predators have for hunting as we tour around the zoo observing some of the best hunters.

Trivia Trek: (K-Adult) Full of fantastic fun facts about our wildest creatures, this tour may be tailored to the age and ability level of your group. Let your group get their questions answered and discover some things they never knew. Your guide will bring a tote with touchable fur, feathers, scales and more.

Beyond the Books: Especially for Grades 6-12 and Post-Secondary Schools

*Limited to our **older students and guests** only, these programs are designed to provide more detailed information on our breeding programs, animal care and zoo careers for those who are seriously considering animal/zoo related careers.

*These programs may involve a **behind the scenes tour** if you are interested and your group is fewer than 30 people. Please note: We will not permit younger students, infants or toddlers to "tag-along" during the behind the scenes portion of these programs. Some behind-the-scenes areas involve rough terrain and high steps. Please inform us of any individuals with mobility issues prior to scheduling. While you may ask for a specific area to tour, we cannot guarantee that a specific behind-the-scenes area will be available on the day of your tour. We reserve the right to change tour areas as needed for the health, safety and security of our guests and our animal residents.

***Fees:** Behind the scenes tours are \$150 and are limited to groups of 15 or fewer. Groups of over 15 will be charged an additional fee of \$75 per group of 15 people.

*** Fees:** If you want one of the programs below **without the behind-the-scenes** component, the fees are \$50.00 for an hour-long program and \$40 for a half-hour long program. Program fees are in addition to admission fees and help to cover the additional staff required for your program.

Animal Care/Behind the Scene Tour: (6th Grade - Adult) What does it take to care for some of the wild creatures that call the Erie Zoo home? From the special diets to health and hygiene procedures to behavioral enrichment, your group will discover some of the specialized tasks of our animal care staff in this behind the scenes tour. PA Standards for the Environment and Ecology: 4.7.7 A, B; 4.7.10 A, B; and 4.7.12 C.

Zoo Careers/ Classroom/ Walk: (6th Grade - Adult) What kinds of jobs are available at the zoo? What special training is involved and how do people get started in zoo-related careers? From animal care to horticulture to visitor services and education, your students will be amazed at the variety of careers that are available at zoos and aquariums. PA Standards for Career Education and Work Academic Standards 13.1.8 A,B,C,D,E,F; 13.1.11 A,B,C,F; and 13.2.8 E.

The Role of Zoos in Conservation/With or without behind the scene tour: (8th Grade - Adult) Discover the many ways modern zoos are facilitating the conservation of endangered species, habitats and inspiring others to conserve our wildlife and wild places. We will cover breeding programs and other conservation efforts. PA Standards for Environment and Ecology 4.7.12