

A Visual Story to  
support your  
“Meet the  
Hippos”  
experience

**WHIPSNADE  
ZOO**

a ZSL conservation zoo



The “Meet the Hippos” experience is **ONLY** available to ticket holders. It is not included in your Zoo entrance ticket.

Tickets for the “Meet the Hippos” experience can be booked online on the ZSL Website.

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Tickets for “Meet the Hippos” can be booked here:

[Meet The Animals At ZSL Whipsnade Zoo | Zoological Society of London \(ZSL\)](#)



# Getting to the experience in the Zoo

Please make your way to the Hippo enclosure to find the “Meet the Hippos” meeting point. The meeting point can be found close to the Hippo House.

A map of the Zoo can be downloaded here:

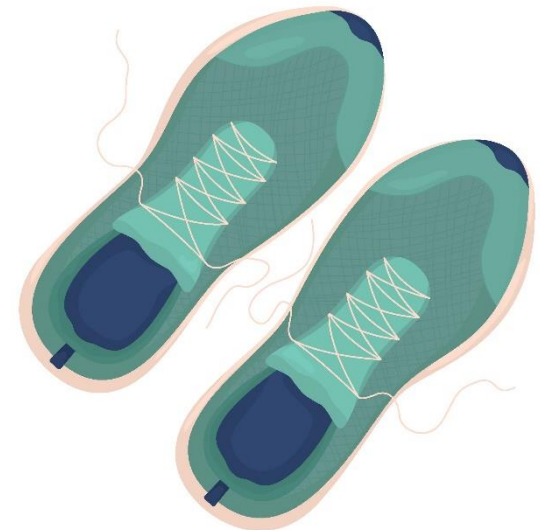
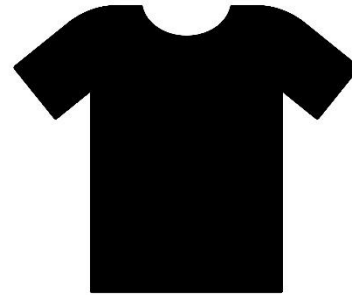
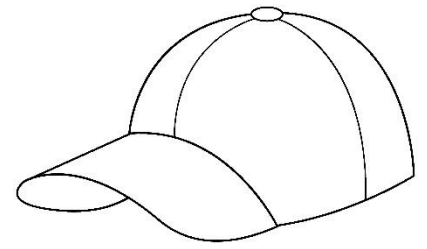
[Map of ZSL Whipsnade Zoo](#)  
[| Zoological Society of London \(ZSL\)](#)



The experience takes place outside at the hippo enclosure.

I need to make sure I wear suitable clothes for being outside. This might be a sunhat and t-shirt or raincoat and jumper.

I need to make sure I wear closed-toe shoes, like trainers, for the experience to make sure I stay safe.





# Arriving at my experience



- At 2pm I will wait close to the “Meet the Hippos” meeting point sign. This meeting point is close to the Hippo House.
- This is what the “Meet the Hippos” Meeting Point sign looks like. And this is where the sign is.



# Waiting for my experience to begin

- The experience does not start until 2:15pm, but while I am waiting for the zookeepers to arrive I can look for the hippos in their enclosure. Sometimes the zookeepers might not arrive exactly at 2:15pm. If they arrive a little bit early or late this is OK as I will still get to take part in the “Meet the Hippos” experience.
- There might be lots of people around in the area where I have to wait but this is OK. If I don’t like this there is lots of space here so I can move away where there are fewer people.
- If I move away this is OK as there are lots of places where I can still see the “Meet the Hippos” sign to watch for the zookeepers to arrive.

# Starting my experience

- A zookeeper will come to the “Meet the Hippos” sign and meet us there.
- A Zoo Volunteer will also meet us at the “Meet the Hippos” sign and check my ticket and anyone else who is doing the experience’s ticket.
- There are a maximum of 4 people who can take part in the experience so there might be other people doing the experience with me.



This is a picture of a zookeeper. The zookeepers that meet you will be wearing green uniforms.



This is a picture of a volunteer. The volunteers that meet you will be wearing red uniforms.

# My “Meet the Hippos” experience

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- The zookeeper will tell me and everyone else taking part in the experience a few things to remember. It is important I listen to what the zookeeper tells me as it will help to keep me safe once we go into the area where my experience will take place.
- There is a fence around this area so people not taking part in the experience cannot enter the area where we will be able to feed the hippos. Although I will be close to the hippos there is a special fence between where I will be standing and the fence of the hippo enclosure. This means I will be safe from the hippos.
- Once the zookeeper has told us the important information we will go through the gate into the area where my experience takes place.
- If there is nice weather and it is a weekend or school holidays, there might be a lot of people by the gate into the designated area. These people will let me through as I am with the zookeeper.
- The special area where the zookeeper takes me will let me see the hippos up close. This is the gate into the experience area.





# My experience

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- This is what the experience area looks like.
- It is important that I stand where the zookeeper asks me to. If I am not sure, the zookeeper will be able to tell me where I need to stand to stay safe.
- When everyone taking part in the experience is in the experience area, the zookeeper will show me what I can do to feed the hippos.
- There may be people who stand at the fence behind me watching us feed the hippos. They will not be able to join us in the experience area, but they might be noisy.





# What the hippos eat

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- This is an example of what I might be feeding the hippos. The hippo's food might smell strange to me, but this is OK as the hippos really like this food.
- When I touch the food it might feel cold or wet.



# What I will be doing

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- The zookeeper will show me what to do and how to feed the hippos.
- They will give me some food to throw into the hippo's mouth. They will also watch while I feed the hippos to make sure I stay safe.
- This is an example of what I will be able to do and how to feed the hippos.



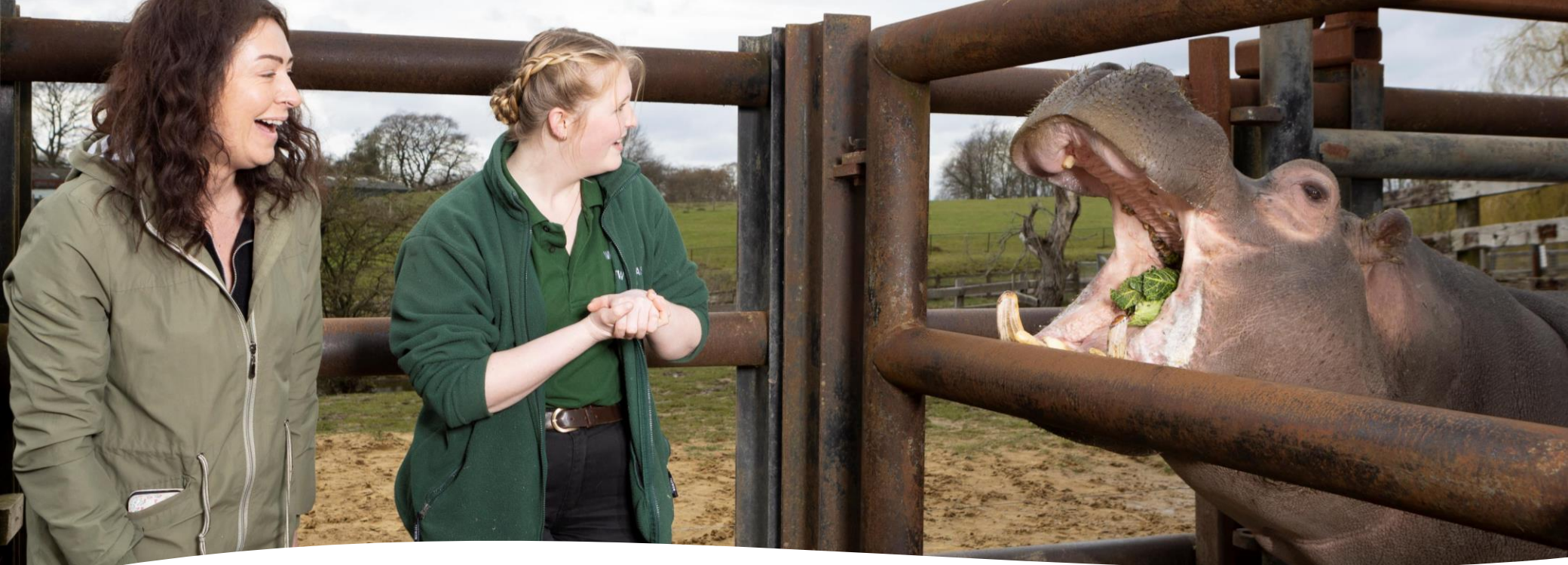


# What I am allowed to do

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- I will be able to take turns with everyone else feeding the hippos. The zookeeper will tell me when it is my turn to feed the hippos.
- While we are feeding the hippos, the zookeeper will tell us lots of information about the hippos and I will be able to ask questions about the hippos.
- I can ask someone to take photos of me while I feed the hippos, and I can take photos while other people feed the hippos.





## The end of my experience

- Once we have fed the hippos all the food, I will be able to ask the zookeeper any questions and then it will be time for the experience to end.
- This will be the end of the experience and the zookeeper will open the gate to let us all out of the experience area.
- After I have finished the experience, I will be able to look for more animals in their enclosures at the Zoo.



Thank you  
for taking part in  
our "Meet the  
Hippos"  
experience

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