

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

**WHIPSNADE
ZOO**

a ZSL conservation zoo



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

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

Tickets for “Meet the Elephants” can be booked here: [Meet The Animals At ZSL Whipsnade Zoo | Zoological Society of London \(ZSL\)](#)



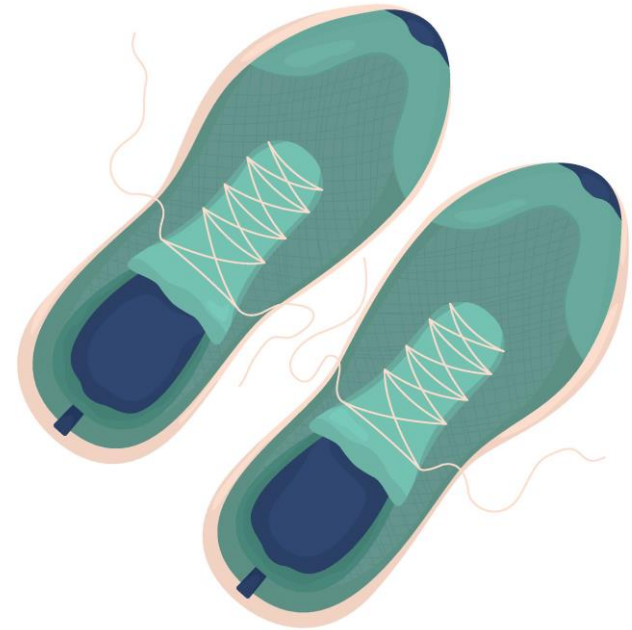
Getting to the experience in the Zoo

Please make your way to the Elephant enclosure to find the “Meet the Elephant” meeting point. The meeting point can be found close to the entrance of the Centre for Elephant Care.

A map of the Zoo can be downloaded here:

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

The experience takes place inside in the Elephant's indoor house.



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

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MEET THE ELEPHANTS MEETING POINT



Pre-booked ticket holders only
Tickets available from the Visitor Centre

- The “Meet the Elephants” experience takes place at different times in the year depending on what time the zoo closes. The start time for my experience will be on my ticket.
- When it is time for my experience I will wait close to the “Meet the Elephants” meeting point sign. This meeting point is close to the entrance of the Centre for Elephant Care.
- This is what the “Meet the Elephants” Meeting Point sign looks like. And this is where the sign is.



Waiting for my experience to begin



- While I am waiting for the zookeeper to arrive for my experience I can look for the elephants in their enclosure. Sometimes the zookeeper might not arrive exactly on time. If they arrive a little bit early or late this is OK as I will still get to take part in the “Meet the Elephants” 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 Elephants” sign to watch for the zookeeper to arrive.

Starting my experience

- A zookeeper will come to the “Meet the Elephants” sign and meet us there.
- A Zoo Volunteer will also meet us at the “Meet the Elephants” sign and check my ticket and anyone else who is doing the experience’s ticket
- There are a maximum of 6 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 zookeeper that meets you will be wearing a green uniform.



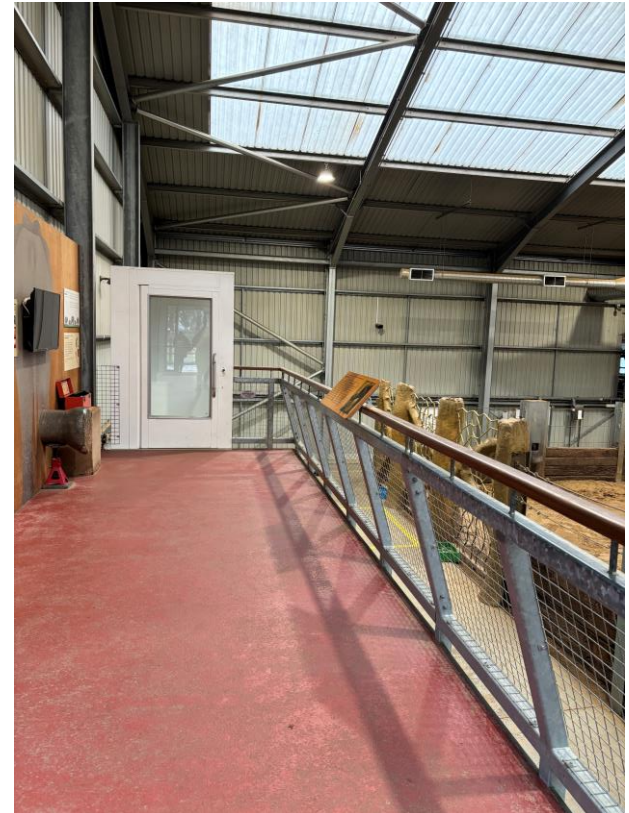
This is a picture of a volunteer. The volunteers that meet you will be wearing red uniforms.

My “Meet the Elephants” experience 1

- 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 special area where my experience will take place.
- Although I will be close to the elephants there is a fence between where I will be standing and the elephants. By standing back and not going close to the fence I will be safe from the elephants.
- Once the zookeeper has told us the important information, they will take me and everyone else taking part in the experience into the special area.
- There are two different ways to get to the special area. The keeper will make sure we go the best way, depending on who is in our group.

My “Meet the Elephants” experience 2

- One way into the special area is in a lift. To go to the lift we will walk through the viewing area in the elephant house and go down in the lift. Once in the lift the keeper will use the buttons in the lift to take us down.
- When we get out of the lift we will be in the area where the experience takes place.
- This is the elephant viewing area and the lift.



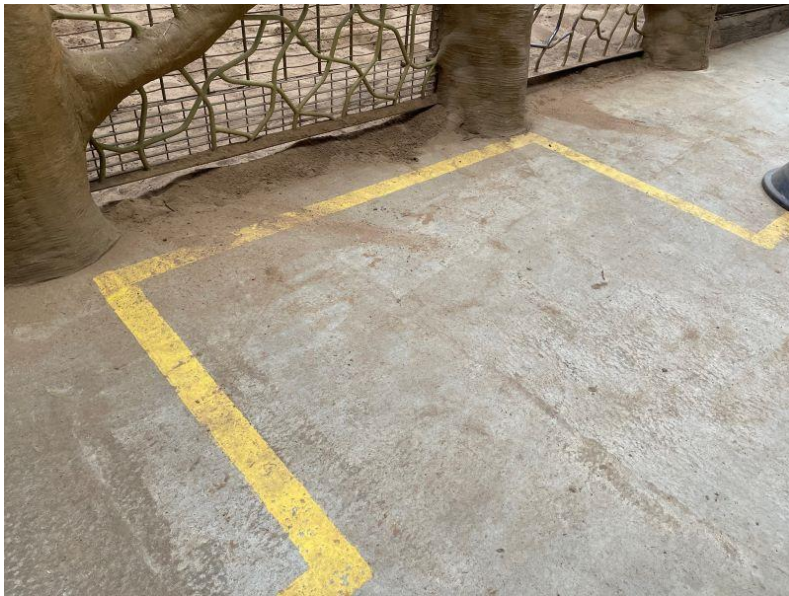
My experience 3.



- Sometimes we might get to the place where the experience takes place by going through a gate.
- When we go through the gate the zookeeper might tell me some more important information.
- They will then walk with me and anyone else taking part in the experience through the old elephant house and into the new one. When we walk through the old elephant house the zookeeper might tell me some information about the old elephant house and what it is used for now.

My experience 4.

- When we get into the new elephant house and the place where the experience takes place, there will be a yellow line on the floor which the zookeeper will point out. It is important that I stay behind this yellow line.
- If I am not sure, the zookeeper will be able to tell me where I need to stand to stay safe.



This is the special yellow line that I need to look for.

My experience. 5.

- When I get to the special place where I will be feeding the elephants the zookeeper will show me where I can sit down and wait safely for my turn to feed the elephants.
- I will be able to put any coats and bags I have down here.
- The zookeepers will make sure there are enough chairs put out for everyone taking part in the experience.



My experience. 6.

- When everyone taking part in the experience is in the special area, the zookeeper will show me what I can do to feed the elephants.
- It is important I listen to this as we are helping the zookeeper with some of the training for the elephants.
- It might be a little bit loud in the elephant's house because there is a public viewing area open while the "Meet the Elephants" experience happens.



This is how I will be able to feed the elephants. The elephants will be behind a fence and I can put the food through for them.

What the elephants eat

- This is an example of what I might be feeding the elephants. The elephant's food might smell strange to me, but this is OK as the elephants really like this food.
- The food I will feed the elephants is a special fibre biscuit that they really like. The fibre biscuit is frozen so when I hold it it might feel cold and slippery.
- There will be a small container for me, that has the food in for me to feed the elephants. Everyone will have their own container of food to feed the elephants.



What I am allowed to do

- I will be able to take turns with everyone else feeding the elephant. The zookeeper will tell me when it is my turn to feed the elephant.
- While we are feeding the elephants, the zookeeper will tell us lots of information about the elephants and I will be able to ask questions about the elephants.
- I can ask someone to take photos of me while I feed the elephants, and I can take photos while other people feed the elephant. I cannot take selfies with the elephants as they do not like this.



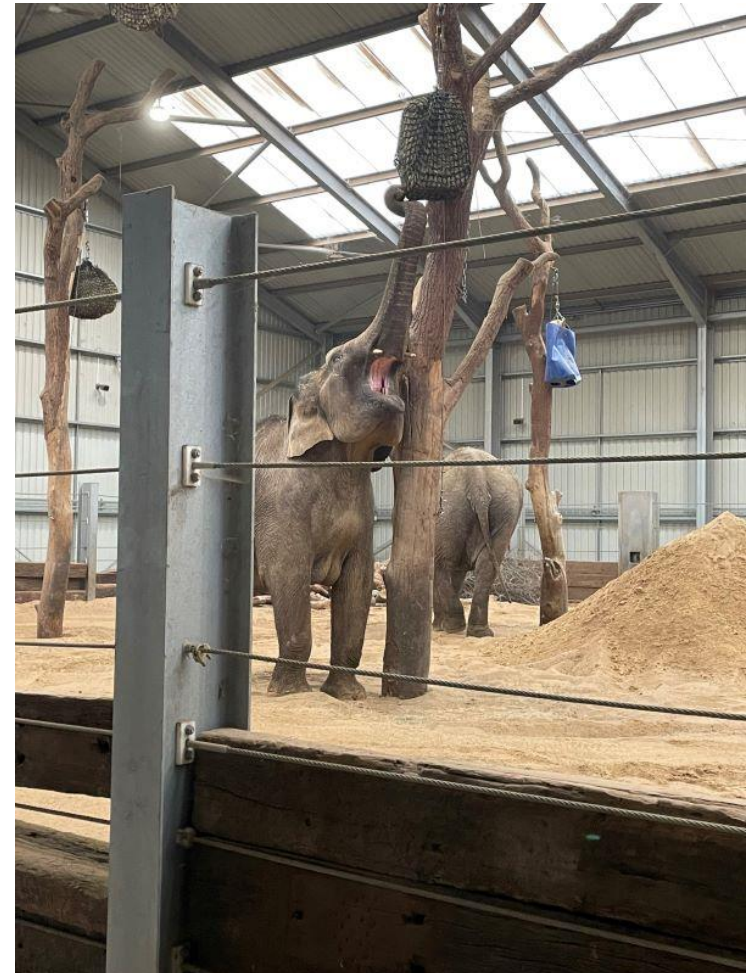
What I will be doing. 1.

- The zookeeper will show me what to do and how to feed the elephant. They will also watch while I feed the elephant to make sure I stay safe.
- Because the elephants have sand in their inside house some of this might land on me as they use their trunk. But this is OK and it won't hurt me.
- After everyone has had a turn feeding the elephants the zookeeper will blow a whistle to let the elephants know there is no more food left.
- This is the fence that I will be able to feed the elephants through.



What I will be doing. 2.

- After the zookeeper has blown the whistle to let the elephants know there is no more food left they will take me and anyone else doing the “Meet the Elephants” experience for a tour of the Centre for Elephant Care.
- I will be able to watch the elephants foraging in their house.
- The zookeeper will also be able to tell me lots about the elephants and how they look after them.



The end of my experience

- Once we have fed the elephants all the food and the zookeeper has given us a tour of the Centre for Elephant Care, I will be able to ask the zookeepers 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 walk with us back to the gate. They will then open the gate to let us all out of the special area.



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

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