

Nature Nights Group Bookings Information

Thank you for your interest in booking one of our Nature Nights camping experiences. This document contains some key pieces of information that may help answer some of your questions. If you still have any questions after reading the below, or if you would like to book our Nature Nights experience for your group, please get in touch with us on experiences@zsl.org.

Numbers and Minimum Ages:

A private booking requires a minimum of 20 participants. We can accommodate up to 60 participants, however we may be able to be flexible with this if required. All participants must be over 5 years of age.

Costings:

Adults = £60, Children (up to age 15) = £55, Disabled Adult = £60, Disabled Child = £55, Carer = £42.

We do not offer free/discounted tickets for group leaders. However, we do offer two free day admission tickets for a recce visit to meet with a member of staff and to discuss your booking and requirements.

The ticket price covers your overnight stay, 2 exclusive zoo tours, an animal quiz, a breakfast roll and drink, as well as entry to the zoo for the day after your sleepover.

A £500 deposit is required no later than 2 weeks after your provisional booking, with the final balance due 6 weeks prior to your stay. Please let us know your final numbers just before your final balance is due. Payments can be taken by cheque, bank transfer or card. If there could be problems with these timescales, please let us know.

What to Bring?

You will need to provide the following:

- Your own tents
- Sleeping bags, pillows and camping mats
- Torch
- Warm clothes and sensible shoes

Food Offerings and Dietary Requirements:

A breakfast roll (sausage, vegan sausage, mushroom or bacon) and a drink (tea, coffee, apple juice or orange juice) is provided in the cost (one drink and one roll per person). We will also provide complimentary tea and coffee for the adults between 6.30-11pm (hot water urn with tea, coffee, sugar and UHT milk. Please bring your own reusable cups/mugs if you'd like to use this).

Packed lunches (including a sandwich, jelly squeeze, Pom Bears, piece of fruit and a drink) are available at an extra cost of £6.95 per person. A cooked evening dinner may be requested at an extra cost of £7.95 per person. Any additional food offers must be booked in advance. Please let us know at the time of booking if you would like these offerings, with final orders required 7 days prior to your stay.

There are a number of local takeaways and pizza delivery companies that can also deliver to the Zoo if you wish to use this for your evening food instead. We can cater for most dietary requirements, but please provide these 7 days prior to your stay.

No catering outlets are open for the duration of your overnight, so please ensure you have your catering requirements planned. We do not allow BBQs or gas stoves.

What Facilities do you provide?

Toilets are available a short walk from the camping area. An accessible toilet is also available. There are no showers. For your young people's safety, our staff members will use different facilities.

We will provide large water containers for you to refill your own water bottles from, these can be refilled by your host team.

We will provide a hot water urn, tea, coffee and UHT milk sachets for your use. If you intend to use these facilities, please bring your own travel cup or mug. The hot water urn will be available to use between 6:30pm and 11:30pm. It is to be used by adults only. If you wish to make hot chocolate for your group, please ensure you bring your own instant hot chocolate powder.

At least one member of staff will remain on site overnight as an emergency point of call. We also have security guards on site overnight, as well as a trained first aider. We can provide access to a first aid room for any emergencies. All staff hosting the experience hold an enhanced DBS check.

Coaches & Minibuses:

We have a secure external car park for coach parking which can be used overnight. Your coach may drop you off inside the zoo after 6:30pm and re-enter the zoo prior to 9am to allow you to pack your camping equipment on to the coach. Coaches are not permitted inside the zoo during zoo opening hours (10am-6pm). Please advise us in advance if you are planning a coach drop off. Coach drivers receive free zoo entry on the morning after your stay.

Minibuses are allowed to enter the zoo and can park in one of our car parks inside the zoo.

We can also arrange for parents to drop off and pick up.

Bag Storage:

If required, we can arrange bag storage for you while you explore the zoo. Please let us know in advance if you would like this option.

Girlguiding and Scouting Groups:

All staff hosting the experience, and our overnight security team hold an enhanced DBS check.

An "I've snoozed at Whipsnade Zoo" commemorative sew on woven badge is available as an extra. Cost of £1.

Will there be other people staying?

If you have booked a whole Nature Night experience for your group, you will not be sharing this experience with anyone else. However, you may wish to note that we have overnight lodges at the zoo who will also be on site in the evening. This accommodation is the opposite side of the zoo to the camping area and the groups have separate breakfast times and tour routes.

Risk Assessments:

We can provide risk assessments for both your overnight experience and a zoo visit on booking.

Wet and Windy Weather:

We monitor the weather forecast in advance of our Nature Nights experience. All Nature Nights experiences will go ahead as usual. In the instance that we must cancel we will get in touch with you via email and mobile number which we will confirm with you.

2024 Availability:

Dates for 2024 are available on Friday and Saturday nights (subject to availability) from beginning May to end of October.

Ready to Book?

If you would like to book on to one of our Nature Nights experiences for your group, please contact us on experiences@zsl.org.

Sample Itineraries:

Please see below a couple of sample itinerates for a Nature Nights experience. We can tailor these to your party's needs as necessary.

Option 1:

6.30pm*	Arrive at the Main Entrance, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, Your hosts will welcome you and direct you to your parking area. Head to the lawn and pitch your tent! It's a two minute walk from the car park.
7.15pm	Welcome talk Your hosts will run through the itinerary for the evening, all health and safety information plus answer any questions.
7.20pm	Animal Quiz Discover more about some of the animals who we see around the zoo in our quiz.
7.45pm	Break - Enjoy your picnic dinner
8.15pm	Torchlight*/Evening expedition – explore the Zoo and see who is still awake. Make sure you bring a torch! (Depending on the date of your stay, the tour may not take place by torchlight)
9:15pm	Back to camp Head back to camp to learn about some of our resident bats at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo before bed.
10:00pm	Prepare for bed
10.30pm	Lights off and sleep
7.00am	Wake up – to the sounds of the animals nearby
7.30am	Pack down camp
8:45am	Morning Tour Part 1 – See who is awake on the way to breakfast.
9.00am	Breakfast – served at the Basecamp Restaurant
9.30am	Morning tour Part 2 - visit some more of our animals before the zoo opens.
10.00am	Finish – you are welcome to stay in the Zoo for the day (entry is included in your ticket price)

Option 2:

6.30pm*	Arrive at the Main Entrance, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, Your hosts will welcome you and direct you to your camping area. Head to the lawn and pitch your tent!
7.15pm	Welcome talk Your hosts will run through the itinerary for the evening, all health and safety information plus answer any questions.
7:15pm	Playground Head to our outdoor play area for some time on our outdoor play equipment (group leaders are responsible for supervising their young people on play equipment).
7.45pm	Break Enjoy your picnic dinner or evening snacks.
8.15pm	Torchlight*/Evening expedition explore the Zoo and see who is still awake. Make sure you bring a torch! (Depending on the date of your stay, the tour may not take place by torchlight)
9.15pm	Back to camp Head back to camp for a quick quiz before bed. Test out what you've learnt on your torchlight tour with a zoo quiz.
10.00pm	Prepare for bed
10.30pm	Lights off and sleep
7.00am	Wake up – to the sounds of the animals nearby
7.30am	Pack down camp
8:45am	Morning Tour Part 1 – See who is awake on the way to breakfast.
9.00am	Breakfast – served at the Basecamp Restaurant
9.30am	Morning tour Part 2 - visit some more of our animals before the zoo opens.
10.00am	Finish – you are welcome to stay in the Zoo for the day (entry is included in your ticket price)

*Zoo entry may be permitted from 6pm. Please let us know in advance if you would like to arrive at 6pm.