

San Diego Zoo 1 Day Itinerary with Toddlers (Includes Map)



San Diego Zoo Itinerary with Toddlers

..... Walking Route
 to Exit

Map Annotations by Nancy Ulrich of SanDiegoing.com

Here's the best stroller & small child-friendly route through San Diego Zoo in 2021. It does not show the Skyfari or the Children's Zoo. Skyfari is not on my family with toddlers' path because you can't bring strollers and carts on board the aerial gondolas. And the new kids' zoo is still under construction.

This route has a minimum of backtracking. There's some, just because you're pushing a stroller and the zoo's hilly topography.

Map Key:

Start at ENTER on the map. Follow my hot pink map numbers around the zoo on the image above. NOTE: My numbers have absolutely no correlation to the numbers in pink circles on the official San Diego Zoo map.

1. Guided Bus Tour- not advised for those younger than 3 years old
2. Meet bus riders in your group here at the Guided Bus Tour Unloading point
3. Galapagos Turtles via Reptile House, Komodo Dragons and Hummingbird exhibits
4. Flamingo & Duck Pond
5. Gorillas (play area with gorilla statues. Then backtrack to take route thru Scripps Aviary)

6. Bonobos (then backtrack to the elevator)

E = Elevator take DOWN. Turn right out of the elevator and take the right-hand path down Hippo Trail. This is NOT a blue dot path. It's a rather steep downhill walk here. But you'll find that the animals are worth it. Hold onto that stroller!

7. Hippos (and play area on the statue)
8. Snow Leopards & Red Pandas

E = Take Bashor Bridge elevator UP

9. Polar Bears (stay for the Keeper Talk then backtrack towards Elephant Odyssey)
10. Lions (mastodon, extinct giant cats play areas)
11. Sabertooth Grill (Eat and watch the elephants from your table. Let the kiddos play around the Sabertooth cat and giant cave bear sculptures. Then head off to see the Meerkats & Baboons Keeper talks)
12. Penguins
13. Orangutans (At Front Street turn left to go past #2 again to #14)
14. Tasmanian Devils
15. Koalas & Giraffes (almost time to see the Giraffe Keeper Talk?)
16. Bear Canyon (continue heading downhill to #12)

Exit: Follow the orange dot path on my annotated map. At the bottom of Bear Canyon turn left to Bashor Bridge. Then ride the elevator to the top. Exit and turn left towards Treetops Cafe and Albert's Restaurant and take Treetops Way to Front Street then Exit.

Take your happy toddler to ride the Miniature Train outside the zoo.

Congratulations, you've seen more than 90% of San Diego Zoo-goers and you did it with a toddler!

Happy SanDiegoing!

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