



2026

Admissions & Venues Guide
San Diego Zoo

events.sandiegozoo.org
events@sdzwa.org
619-685-3259



Private Catered Event Admissions

In order to utilize catering facilities at the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park, one admissions fee per attendee is required.

*Memberships do not apply

1-Day Pass

Includes all-day admission, Guided Bus Tour, Skyfari Aerial Tram, and all public wildlife presentations as scheduled during operating hours.

	Adult	Child
Catered Event Attendee	\$39	\$29
Retail	\$78	\$68

Evening Entry

For catered groups entering grounds after 4:00pm. Includes admission, Guided Bus Tour, Skyfari Aerial Tram, and all public wildlife presentations as scheduled during operating hours.

	Adult	Child
Entry	\$19	\$19

Parking

Parking is available for event guests.

*Subject to availability.

Per Vehicle

Catered Event Attendee	Complimentary
------------------------	---------------

Retail	\$16
--------	------





Special Experience Options

**Wildlife experiences and viewing are subject to change based on the needs of wildlife.*

Wildlife Encounter at Wegeforth Bowl

Nothing completes a special event like a furry, feathery, or scaly guest of honor. Experience an up-close encounter with some of the rarest and most dynamic species that will inspire and amaze even the most educated animal enthusiast. Enjoy meeting our professional wildlife care staff and learn about wildlife, ecosystems, and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance conservation efforts. Our wildlife animal ambassadors include a variety of birds, reptiles, and mammals.

Private Encounter Times (Pending Availability): 11:00am, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm, & 7:00pm

Pricing: \$3,000

Duration: 30 minutes

Wildlife Care Specialist Talk

Hear from the people who work with wildlife on a daily basis. Guests will have the ability to ask questions and interact with our wildlife care specialists!

Pricing: \$750

Duration: 30 minutes



Tours and Group Experience Options

*Wildlife experiences and viewing are subject to change based on the needs of wildlife.

Private Guided Bus Tour

Join us for a narrated, round-trip 35-minute adventure through Zoo grounds on our double-decker buses and find out more about how we're saving species worldwide, and what you can do as an ally for wildlife.

Pricing: \$750 per Bus

Recommended Time:
Daylight Hours
(Unavailable from
11:00am–2:00pm)

Duration: 35 Minutes

Boarding Location:

Guided Bus Tour
Unloading Dock

Age Range: All Ages

Number of Guests:
Up to 80 Guests per Bus

Wildlife Adventure Bus Tour

This fascinating and educational 90-minute adventure is packed with insightful stories about how we save, protect, and care for wildlife at the San Diego Zoo and across the globe. As part of your private group outing, you'll enjoy a guided bus tour and an up-close experience with wildlife. This tour offers a truly unforgettable way to see the Zoo!

Pricing: \$49 per Person

Recommended Time:
Daylight Hours
(Unavailable after
3:30pm)

Duration: 90 Minutes

Boarding Location:
Custom

Age Range: All Ages

Number of Guests:
Up to 160 Guests at Any
One Time

Botanical Tour

Embark on a private guided bus tour that highlights our botanic gardens and all the wonderful plant species in the San Diego Zoo's collection. Learn about our conservation work with plants, as well as the role plants play in animal nutrition. Along the bus route guests will disembark and enjoy a private guided tour of our orchid house by one of our knowledgeable experts.

Pricing: \$40 per Person

Tour Time Options (Based on Availability):
Unavailable on Sundays

9:30am-11:00am, 10:00am-11:30am
10:30am-12:00pm, 11:00am-12:30pm

Duration: 90 Minutes

Boarding Location:

Guided Bus Tour Unloading Dock

Unloading Location:

Orchid House

Age Range: All Ages

Number of Guests: Up to 80 Guests

Wildlife Walking Tour

Connect with wildlife like never before on this walking tour led by one of our expert guides. You'll be immersed with your guide using specialized audio equipment and headphones so you can focus on the fascinating stories about incredible animals, plants, and the conservation efforts your visit makes possible worldwide.

Choose from one of the following areas or themes at the San Diego Zoo:
Wildlife Explorers Basecamp, Africa Rocks, Elephant Odyssey, or Lost Forest.

Pricing: \$35 per Person

Recommended Time: Daylight Hours

*Available After Hours in Select Areas

Duration: 60 Minutes

Boarding Location: Custom

Age Range: All Ages

Number of Guests: Up to 90 Guests

(in Three Separate Groups of 30) at Any One Time

Zooper Team Challenge

For competitive groups, this high-energy challenge requires teams to work together deciphering a series of clues spread out across the world-famous San Diego Zoo. Every team has a unique packet of clues and questions, and time is of the essence! Teams must develop their own strategy for completing the challenge in the allotted time, examine photos, explore habitats, and answer tough questions about wildlife at the Zoo. Look out for bonus clues as an extra chance to snap some photos.

*Walking shoes are highly recommended.

Pricing: \$30 per Person

Recommended Time: Daylight Hours

Up to One Hour Prior to Sunset

Duration: 120 Minutes

Boarding Location: Custom

Age Range: All Ages

Number of Guests: Up to 150 Guests at Any One Time

(Group Will be Split into Teams of 8-10 Guests)

Team Trivia

Test your knowledge of wildlife, bond with your team, and create unforgettable memories during this 75-minute trivia showdown! Hilarious host Dr. Zoolittle will offer trivia questions in four fast-paced rounds, focusing on wildlife, conservation, and little-known facts about the San Diego Zoo. To win, you must collaborate with your team and discover your inner wildlife expert - all with no phones! This program includes a wildlife experience during the last break, while Dr. Zoolittle tallies the final scores. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

Pricing Varies on Group Size:

Up to 300 Guests - \$4,500

301-450 Guests - \$6,300

451-600 Guests - \$7,800

Location: Dependent on Venue Availability

Age Range: All Ages

Number of Guests: Up to 600 Guests at Any One Time

(Maximum of 10 Guests Per Team)

Recommended Time: Any

Duration: 75 Minutes



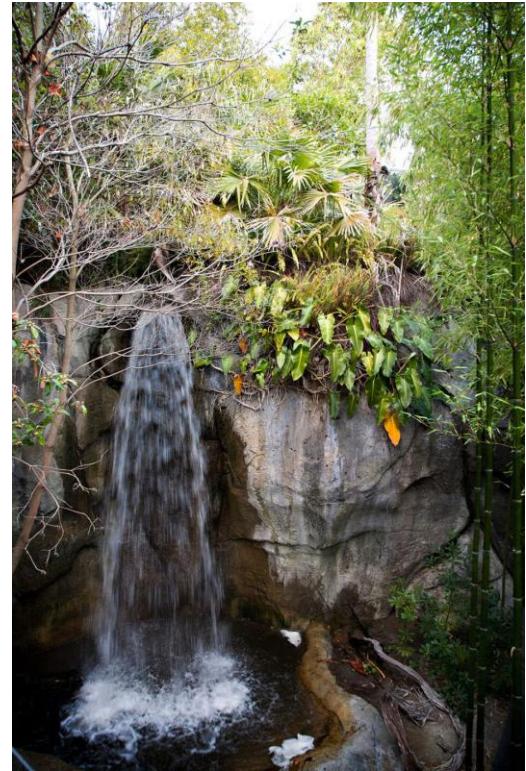
Zoofari Party Area

The Ultimate Event Destination! Large outdoor venue with striking ambient large umbrella lit trees; vibrant, and festive perimeter décor.

Recommended for up to 1,000 guests

Seating & Dining: 60" Round Tables Accompanied by Crossed Back Chairs

Availability: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Treetops Room

This venue captures the simplicity and serenity of life in Africa with its floor to ceiling windows, plus a private patio and waterfall.

Recommended for up to 100 guests

Seating & Dining: 72" Round Tables Accompanied by Padded Banquet Chairs

Availability: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Rondavel

A short walk from the Zoo's entrance, this octagonal room features a vaulted ceiling and expansive picture windows overlooking an enchanting garden with a koi pond, waterfall, and lush bamboo forest.

Recommended for up to 50 guests

Seating & Dining: 60" Round Tables Accompanied by Padded Banquet Chairs

Availability: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Sydney's Grill

A venue like no other! Stroll throughout Urban Jungle to view Giraffes, Rhinos, Koalas, and more! Outdoor venue featuring up-lit trees and colorful umbrellas.

Recommended for up to 500 guests

Seating & Dining: 42"Round Tables Accompanied by Deck Chairs

Availability: Dinner



Sabertooth Grill

This expansive terrace offers a magnificent view and one-of-a-kind dining opportunity for your celebration. Lush landscaping and eye level views of our elephants will have guests trumpeting about the experience for years to come

Recommended for up to 300 guests

Seating & Dining: Choice of 36" Square Tables or 72" Square Tables (based on guest count)
Accompanied by Slatted Aluminum Chairs

Availability: Dinner

After Zoo operational hours, venue requires \$8/Person round trip shuttles.
For groups under 80 guests, shuttles are a flat rate of \$640.00.

Venue Capacity Chart

	Size (Square Feet)	Dimensions (feet)	Reception	Buffet	Plated	Buffet/ Dance	Theater
Zoofari Party Area	20,000	-	1,200*	1,000*	300	650*	1,000*
Treetops Room	2,415	69x35	150*	100	120	80	150*
Treehouse Decks with Treetops Room	3,222	-	600	400*	120	400*	150*
Rondavel	1,120	35x32	75*	50	50	40	70
Sabertooth Grill	12,000	100x120	320	300	170	170	-
Elephant Odyssey with Sabertooth Grill	-	-	700*	-	-	-	-
Urban Jungle with Sydney's Grill	-	-	800*	500*	-	500*	-

Capacities listed may vary based on event specific setup.

*Rental of additional chairs and tables may be required to meet maximum setup.

San Diego Zoo Buyout Available

Catering Policies and Procedures

Admission

In order to utilize catering facilities at the premises, an admissions fee per attendee is required. SDZWA membership, military passes, prepaid tickets and/or discount coupons do not apply to Special Events.

Tickets and wristbands will be sent to the client in advance for distribution. Any unused tickets and/or wristbands must be returned to the event coordinator on the day of the event. Missing items may incur additional charges.

If a registration table is required for on-site ticket and wristband distribution, a \$250 fee applies. This includes one table with floor-length linen and two chairs. Client is responsible for manning the registration table.

Food And Beverage Minimums, Bar Minimums & Room Rentals

Each facility has a minimum Food and Beverage expenditure requirement. This minimum is met through the purchase of the food and beverage only. Entertainment, rental, décor, admissions, surcharges, wildlife encounters, labor fees and/or sales tax do not apply towards this minimum. If the food and beverage minimum is not met, an amount equal to the deficit plus applicable sales tax will be charged to the client.

Any deviation and/or reductions in program do not alter the client's responsibility for full payment of this minimum.

Confirmation Of Space

Event space may be confirmed with a signed sales agreement and deposit as early as eighteen (18) months in advance. All dates are subject to approval from our Sales Department.

Deposit

A non-refundable deposit is required at the time of signing the Sales Agreement in order to consider any reservation confirmed. This deposit will be applied toward the total charge for the Event.

The remaining balance as determined by the Event Order will be due twelve (12) business days prior to the Event.

Final Guarantee

A final guarantee is due no later than 10:00 am (PST) twelve (12) business days prior to your event. If the final guarantee is not received within the twelve (12) day specification, the estimated attendance given at contract will be used as the final billable guarantee.

The Client will be invoiced for the final guaranteed attendance (food, beverage, admissions and tours) or the actual number of meals served, and entrances granted, whichever is greater.

Any food or beverage requested and approved by SDZWA, after the guaranteed date, will be subject to additional fees.

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) will provide seating 5% over the guarantee up to the maximum capacity of the reserved facility San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance will be prepared to cook food for 5% over the guarantee as the need is determined. If the actual number of guests at an event exceeds 5% of the guarantee, every effort will be made to provide meals, but we reserve the right to substitute food items and not guaranteed.

Event Schedules/Timing

The client agrees to conform to the specifications of the guaranteed Event Order regarding arrival, meal service, entertainment and departure schedule. Client will be invoiced for any expenses incurred as a result of client's failure to comply with the contracted specifications listed in the Event Order. Groups that are on the premises after 11:00pm. will be charged a late fee of \$1,000.00 per hour, or any portion thereof unless otherwise contracted. All groups must depart by 12 midnight.

Client has access to venue one hour prior to event. Extensive set up time requests may be available with an additional fee.

Event attendees are restricted to contracted venue after operating hours.

Catering Policies and Procedures

Zoo Tours

Tour pricing and Team Building Activities are exclusive to Private Catered Events at the San Diego Zoo. Wildlife experiences and viewing are subject to change based on the needs of wildlife.

Minimum group size required is 25 guests per adventure (excluding the Enhancing Wildlife Experiences Workshop, which has a 70-person minimum). Maximum group size varies. Requires at least 8 weeks in advance notice for booking.

Tours including transportation to an event location may require the use of stairs. Alternative transportation can be arranged for guests with mobility impairments. Arrangements must be made three (3) weeks in advance.

A fee will apply for cancelling any scheduled tour, please refer to your Sales Specialist for Cancellation Policy.

A Late Fee of \$180 will be incurred for groups arriving more than 30 minutes late to their scheduled tour time.

Select tours may not be available during peak hours, or operating hours, please refer to your Sales Specialist for more information

Venue Coordinator

The SDZWA Event Coordinator will serve as liaison between SDZWA and the Client for all needs. Any arrangements/requests/ communication must be made directly with said Event Coordinator.

The SDZWA Event Coordinator must approve all decorations, themes and entertainment at least one (1) month prior to the Event. The SDZWA reserves the right to refuse any decoration themes or entertainment that may be considered a health or safety problem or cause damage to the premises.

Creative Partners

If you would like to enhance your event, check out our recommended Creative Partners [Here](#)

Smoking

San Diego Zoo Safari Park is a non-smoking and non-vaping facility.

Weather

Inclement weather options are available for an additional cost and are not included in minimum charges.

Music

Music sound levels cannot exceed a maximum sustained decibel level of 80. SDZWA will monitor. If sustained reading exceeds maximum, client will be immediately notified and will be expected to reduce the volume. Any additional notifications after the first offense will incur a \$500 fine per notice. More than 3 notices, power source to music will be powered down for remainder of the event.

Loud percussions (i.e. marching band), horns, and steel drum bands are not allowed for animal welfare.

Power

All power requirements must be on file with the SDZWA Event Coordinator at least one (1) month prior to event date. Extensive power needs are subject to additional charges.

Lighting

Outdoor venues have basic lighting. Select venues may require lighting arrangements directly through SDZWA. See your representative for more information. Entertainment, buffets, and presentation requirements will affect capacities.

Décor

All decorations, theming and entertainment must be approved by the Event Coordinator at least four (4) weeks prior to the event.

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance reserves the right to refuse any decoration, theming, lighting or entertainment that may be considered a health or safety problem for the wildlife or cause damage to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance property.

Costume & Mask Guidelines

Costumes are welcome. If masks are part of any costume, guests must follow these guidelines to ensure the safety of all attendees, staff, and animals:

- No masks upon arrival, on Park grounds, or during shuttle rides to/from the venue.
- Masks may be worn only inside the venue.
- Masks must be removed during the Wildlife Encounter.
- Guests must remove masks when departing the venue and during shuttle rides.
- Shoes or appropriate footwear are required at all times.
- Plastic or fake weapons are strictly prohibited.

Catering Policies and Procedures

Restricted Items

For the safety of our guests and wildlife collection, items not allowed on premises include but are not limited to: any animals other than service animals, drones, balloons, balls, Frisbees, hacky sacks, hula hoops, bicycles, scooters, tricycles, riding toys of any kind, fishing line, bug nets, plastic bug keeper containers, cap guns, noisemakers, toys that make loud noises, fireworks, glass bottles, jump ropes, knives, weapons, lawn chairs, plants, roller blades, skates, skateboards, roller shoes, throw away lids and straws, AM/FM radios, scanners, portable TVs, laser pointers, whistles and yo-yos.

Food Service

Requests for special dietary restrictions must be made four (4) weeks in advance, if not sooner. The kitchen will make reasonable efforts to accommodate such requests.

Buffet & Food Stations:

Our buffet and food stations have carefully portioned servings per person to ensure everyone enjoys a wonderful dining experience. Please note that this is not an 'all-you-can-eat' buffet, but rest assured, our portions are designed to satisfy.

Service Times:

90 Minutes (1-699 guests)
120 Minutes (700-1399 guests)
150 Minutes (1400-1999 guests)
180 Minutes (2000+ guests)

An extension of actual service times is subject to additional labor fees. One buffet table with two serving lines will be set up for each 130 guests as space allows.

Recyclable serviceware is included on each station. Food stations are accompanied by smaller plates to offer a greater variety of selections from each station. Preset items and upgrades to serviceware may be available for an additional charge. Please inquire with your Sales Specialist for more information.

Beverage Service

All beverage service is exclusively provided by San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance (SDZWA) and must comply with the regulations of the

California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. SDZWA reserves the right to refuse service to any guest.

For events serving alcoholic beverages, bartender fees and a bar minimum will apply. Please refer to our Catering Menu for details. Labor fees are not applied toward the bar minimum.

Beverage service is limited to a maximum of four (4) hours.

Any bar setup outside of a designated catering venue, as outlined in the Admissions and Venues Guide, will incur a setup fee of \$155 per bar, in addition to standard bartender fees.

Grab-n-Go Station

Features one signature drink, offered in both "wild" (alcoholic) and "tame" (non-alcoholic) versions. Beverages are served upon guest arrival, with service duration determined by group size.

Pricing is based on the guaranteed guest count or actual consumption, whichever is greater. A \$155 setup fee and applicable bartender fees will apply. Please refer to our Catering Menu for details.

Wine Corkage

A corkage fee of \$38 per 750 mL bottle will be charged for wine not provided by SDZWA. All alcohol must be opened and served by an SDZWA employee.

Pricing Subject To Change

All food, beverage, tours and entertainment are subject to pricing changes. Client will be notified prior to any pricing changes.