

VISIT GUIDE 2026

London Zoo

London · From 32.32€

https://londonzoo.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

Two Centuries of Scientific Wonder

GOOGLE 4.3 ★★★★☆ 36 198 reviews

TIQETS 4.5 ★★★★☆ 3 425 reviews

London Zoo was founded in **1826** by Sir Stamford Raffles, who envisioned a scientific repository for the natural world. After his sudden death, the Marquis of Lansdowne took over the project, and the gates finally opened to members of the Zoological Society of London on **April 27, 1828**. This establishment marked the birth of the world's first scientific zoo, dedicated not just to display, but to the rigorous study of animal biology and taxonomy.

For decades, the zoo operated as an exclusive club for scientists and aristocrats, with animals kept indoors due to fears that tropical species could not survive London's cold climate. It was not until **1847** that the public was granted access, transforming the site into a major civic attraction. The Royal Charter from King George IV in 1829 had already legitimized its scientific mission, but public entry accelerated its role as a center for popular education and wonder.

The late 19th century saw a wave of innovation, with the zoo opening the world's first public aquarium in **1853** and the first insectarium in 1881. These additions allowed visitors to explore aquatic and microscopic life previously hidden from view. The facility became a pioneer in conservation science, eventually housing rare specimens like the quagga and thylacine before their extinction in the wild.

In the 20th century, the zoo faced financial crises and shifting public attitudes toward captivity. A near-closure in the early 1990s sparked a massive public campaign for its survival. Today, under the umbrella of ZSL, it has evolved into a modern conservation hub, coordinating six European Endangered Species Programs and maintaining the UK's largest collection of venomous reptiles, including Komodo dragons.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping through the gates at Regent's Park, you are immediately enveloped by a lush, verdant atmosphere that feels worlds away from the bustling city outside. The air is filled with the distant calls of exotic birds and the rustle of leaves, creating a serene sanctuary where time seems to slow down. The architecture blends Victorian heritage with modern immersive habitats, guiding you seamlessly from historical pavilions to cutting-edge enclosures.

As you walk along the paths, the sense of discovery is palpable. Whether you are watching a tiger stretch in the morning sun or observing butterflies landing on your arm, every corner offers a new connection with nature. The light filters through the canopy, casting dappled shadows on the ground, enhancing the feeling of being inside a living, breathing ecosystem. It is a place where science meets spectacle, inviting you to look closer and understand the delicate balance of our planet.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS

City of Westminster · Underground: Camden Town (Northern Line) approx. 1 km walk via Regent's Park.

OPENING HOURS

Open daily from 10:00 AM. Closing times vary by season (later in summer). Always check before you visit.

PRICING

Children under 3 free. Reduced rates for ages 3-15. Book online to guarantee your spots.

VISIT DURATION

Allow between 3 and 5 hours to leisurely explore the 15 hectares of the site and discover the main immersive habitats without rushing.

PHOTOS

Personal photography is allowed and encouraged to capture moments with the animals. Flash usage is prohibited near sensitive species.

AUDIENCE

Ideal for families with children, nature enthusiasts, and fans of scientific history. The site offers a stroller-friendly route.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

🗺️ **Tube / Train**

: London Zoo (Stop B) — 3 min à pied

Paddington Station (12 min) · Victoria Station (17 min)

🚌 **Bus**

: Parkway — 8 min à pied

Paddington Station (19 min) · Victoria Station (26 min)

🚗 **Car**

Paddington Station (12 min) · Victoria Station (18 min)

🚲 **Santander / Bike**

Paddington Station (14 min) · Victoria Station (23 min)

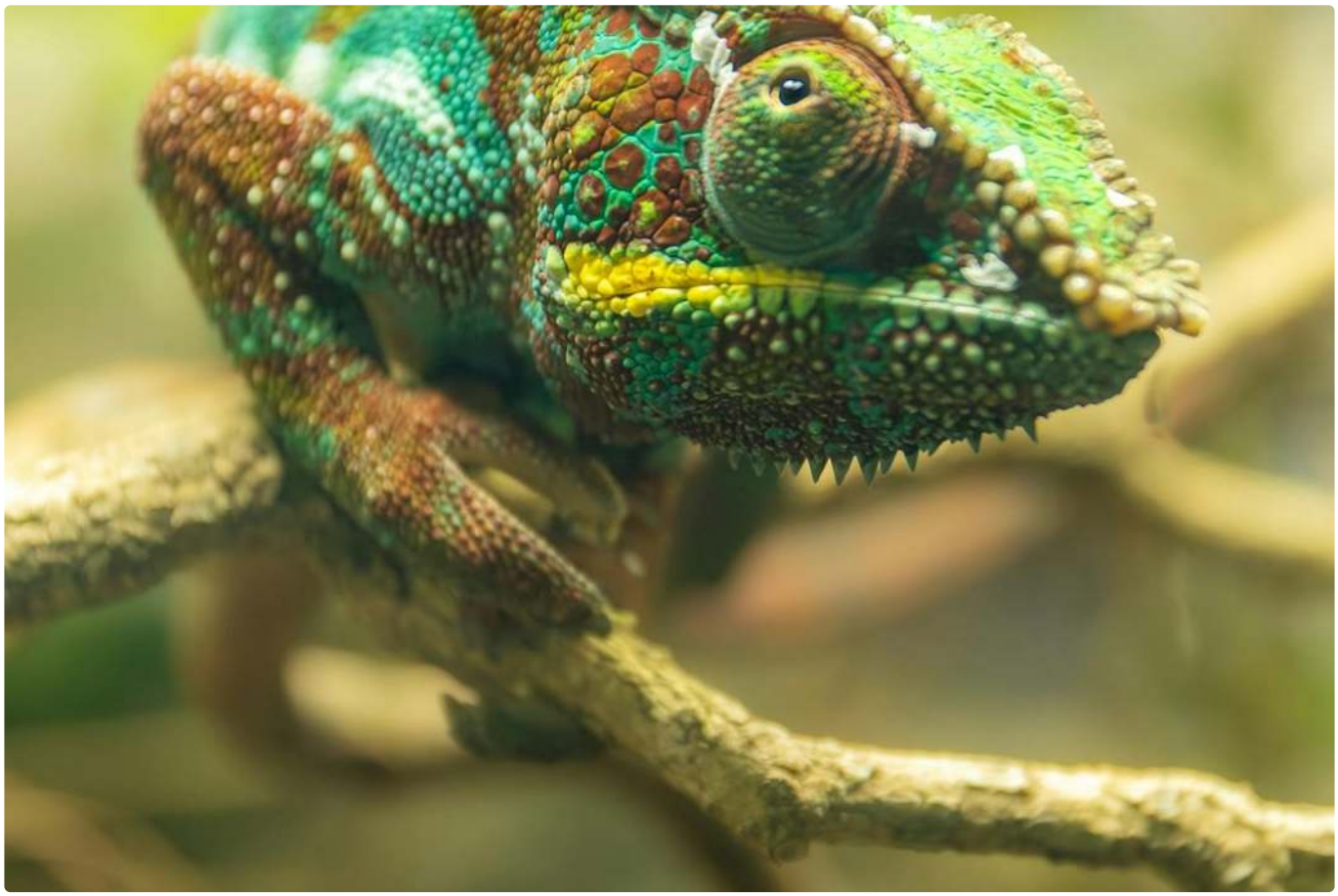
LOCALISATION

Où se trouve London Zoo ?



📍 Outer Circle Regent's Park — NW1 4RY London

🌐 51°32.117′ N, 0°9.206′ O



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the 15 Hectare Site

North Zone (Tiger & Gorilla)

This area houses the emotional highlights of the zoo, featuring the Tiger Territory and Gorilla Kingdom. Visitors can observe large mammals in spacious, naturalistic enclosures designed to mimic their native habitats. The proximity to the entrance makes it ideal for starting your day when animals are most active. Look out for feeding sessions that reveal hunting behaviors.

Central Zone (Rainforest & Reptiles)

The heart of the zoo contains the Clore Rainforest Lookout and the Reptile House. Here, you can step into a humid, tropical environment with free-flying birds and vibrant flora. The Reptile House holds the UK's largest collection of venomous snakes and Komodo dragons. This zone offers a cool, indoor escape from the weather.

South Zone (Children's Zoo & Penguin Beach)

Dedicated to younger visitors, this area features the historic Children's Zoo and the Penguin Beach. Toddlers can interact with farm animals and learn basic biology in a safe, engaging environment. The Penguin Beach allows close-up viewing of penguins swimming and waddling. It is a gentle conclusion to the visit, perfect for families.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Disabled Access**

Easy PMR access with mostly accessible paths and adapted toilets.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Perfect for families, with a dedicated Children's Zoo and picnic areas.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



SELECTION

Must-See Habitats and Landmarks

01 North Zone

Tiger Territory

Home to majestic tigers, this enclosure offers a stunning view of these big cats in a naturalistic setting. The design allows for close observation of their powerful movements and social interactions. Morning visits are recommended to see them most active. It is one of the most photographed spots in the zoo.

> 💡 Tigers here often engage in 'play fights' that mimic real hunting scenarios, providing insight into their predatory instincts.

02 North Zone

Gorilla Kingdom

This immersive habitat allows visitors to feel surrounded by gorillas in a dense, forest-like environment. The glass barriers are invisible, creating a seamless connection between humans and primates. You can watch them groom, play, and communicate with subtle gestures. It is a deeply moving experience for many visitors.

> 💡 The gorillas have been part of the zoo since the 19th century, making them one of the longest-standing resident groups.

03 Central Zone

Butterfly Paradise

An indoor space filled with hundreds of colorful butterflies flying freely among tropical plants. It is a cool, calm retreat from the outdoor crowds. Butterflies often land on visitors, offering unique photo opportunities. The humidity and warmth create a distinct microclimate.

> 💡 The garden is heated to maintain a constant temperature, allowing year-round breeding of sensitive species.

04 Central Zone

Clore Rainforest Lookout

A walk-through rainforest featuring free-flying birds, monkeys, and lush vegetation. The misty atmosphere and sounds of the jungle transport you to the tropics. It replaced the old small mammal building in 2007. Ideal for a refreshing break in hot weather.

> 💡 The structure is designed to be energy-efficient, using natural ventilation and lighting to reduce its carbon footprint.

05

Central Zone

Reptile House

Houses the UK's largest collection of venomous snakes and reptiles, including Komodo dragons. The secure enclosures allow for safe viewing of these dangerous yet fascinating creatures. Educational displays explain their ecological roles. A must-see for reptile enthusiasts.

> 💡 Komodo dragons arrived in 2004, adding a giant predator to the collection that few other zoos possess.

06

South Zone

Penguin Beach

A large pool where penguins swim and dive, visible from multiple angles. The beach area allows for close-up viewing of their waddling antics. It is a favorite spot for children and photographers. The water is kept clean and clear for optimal visibility.

> 💡 The penguins are part of a global breeding program, helping to sustain populations of endangered species.

07

South Zone

Children's Zoo

Founded in 1938, this is the first zoo designed specifically for toddlers. It features farm animals like deer and rabbits in interactive enclosures. The layout is stroller-friendly and easy to navigate. It teaches young children about animal care and biology.

> 💡 It set an educational standard for modern zoos, emphasizing hands-on learning for young visitors.

08

Central Zone

Aquarium

Opened in 1853, this is the world's first public aquarium. It showcases a variety of marine life, from fish to invertebrates. The tanks are illuminated to highlight the colors of the creatures. It remains a key part of the zoo's historical legacy.

> 💡 The original building was a major innovation, allowing the public to see aquatic life for the first time.

TIPS

Essential Tips for Your Visit

TIMING

Arrive at 10:00 AM opening time to see tigers and gorillas at their most active before temperatures rise and crowds increase.

BILLET

Book online in advance to guarantee entry and avoid queues, especially during weekends and good weather. Check for family discounts.

PARCOURS

Start from the north with Tiger Territory and Gorilla Kingdom to use your energy for the highlights, then move south to the Children's Zoo.

PHOTO

Use the Butterfly Paradise for unique shots with butterflies landing on you, and the Penguin Beach for dynamic action photos.

PAUSE

Bring your own lunch for a picnic in the shaded areas near the canal to save money and enjoy a quiet break away from cafeterias.

ENFANTS

Visit the Children's Zoo for toddlers to interact with farm animals, and ensure comfortable shoes for the 15-hectare walk.

AUDIOGUIDE

Rent an audioguide in English, French, or Spanish to deepen your understanding of the conservation efforts and animal behaviors.

CONFORT

Wear appropriate footwear for uneven paths and bring layers, as the weather in London can change quickly, especially in the rainforest areas.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I need to book London Zoo tickets in advance?

Yes, online booking is highly recommended, especially during good weather and weekends. This allows you to avoid potential queues at the ticket windows and guarantees your entry even if the site reaches its maximum capac

Do children pay for entry to London Zoo?

Children under 3 years old enter free of charge. For children aged 3 to 15, a reduced rate applies. Over the age of 16, the adult rate is required. Always check current conditions when purchasing.

Can I enter and exit the Zoo multiple times?

No, the standard ticket generally allows only one entry. If you need to leave the park to eat or visit Regent's Park, you will need to buy another ticket to return, unless specific instructions on your ticket state other

What is the difference between ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo?

ZSL London Zoo is located in Regent's Park in London, while Whipsnade is a much larger safari park located in Buckinghamshire, about 60 km northwest of London. They are two distinct sites managed by the same organization

How long does it take to visit London Zoo?

Allow between 3 and 5 hours for a complete and relaxed visit. The site covers 15 hectares with many scattered enclosures. Arriving early in the morning allows you to see more active animals and avoid peak hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

First Public Aquarium

In 1853, London Zoo opened the world's first public aquarium, a groundbreaking innovation. This allowed the general public to discover aquatic life, which had previously been inaccessible. It marked a significant shift in how people engaged with marine biology.

Historic Insectarium

The zoo opened the first insectarium in 1881, enabling scientific study of the microscopic world. This facility fostered public wonder and contributed to entomological research. It remains a testament to the zoo's pioneering spirit.

Conservation Leadership

ZSL coordinates six European Endangered Species Programs (EEP/ESB) for threatened species. This ex-situ conservation work is crucial for breeding and survival. The zoo plays a vital role in global biodiversity protection.

Near-Closure Crisis

In the early 1990s, the zoo faced financial difficulties and a threat of closure. A public campaign raised funds and awareness, saving the institution. This event highlighted the community's attachment to the zoo's scientific and educational value.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Located within the expansive **Regent's Park**, the zoo offers a perfect blend of wildlife and greenery. Before or after your visit, stroll through the park's 166 hectares to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. Just next door, **Queen Mary's Gardens** provides a botanical break with its famous rose beds and tropical greenhouse. For a panoramic view of the London skyline, climb **Primrose Hill** nearby, which is ideal for sunset views. If you are hungry, head to **Camden Market** for authentic local food and a trendy vibe, or visit the British Museum for a cultural day out. The area is rich with history and leisure options, ensuring a full day of exploration beyond the zoo gates.



Leaving London Zoo, you carry with you more than just memories; you leave with a renewed appreciation for the **biodiversity** that surrounds us. The experience lingers in the quiet awe of witnessing ancient species thrive in a modern urban setting. It is a visit that inspires both curiosity and responsibility, reminding us that conservation is a shared journey. We hope this guide helps you uncover the hidden stories waiting in every habitat, making your next visit even more profound and personal.