

VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Barcelona Zoo

Barcelona · From 23€

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



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

A Century of Education and Conservation

GOOGLE 4.0 ★★★★☆ 37 968 reviews

TIQETS 4.3 ★★★★☆ 3 766 reviews

Founded in 1901, the Barcelona Zoo is much more than a simple animal park; it is a **living laboratory** in the heart of Ciutadella. For nearly a century, this municipal institution has evolved from a royal collection into an establishment dedicated to scientific research and the conservation of endangered species. Today, it serves as a natural classroom for schools across the city, proving that education can be as joyful as it is rigorous.

The zoo's history is marked by a constant drive for pedagogical innovation. While other zoos focused on spectacle, the Barcelona Zoo has always prioritized an **educational approach**. Researchers work hand in hand with caretakers there to understand animal behavior and protect natural habitats. This philosophy has enabled the development of successful breeding programs for critical species such as orangutans and red-capped mangabeys.

Over the decades, infrastructure has been modernized to provide enclosures that faithfully replicate natural environments. The transition toward a more ethical model has been gradual, replacing narrow cages with open spaces where animals can express their instinctive behaviors. This evolution reflects the city's commitment to making biodiversity accessible while respecting the well-being of the park's residents.

Today, the zoo is undergoing a major renovation phase that will further transform its offerings. This transitional period is not an interruption but an opportunity to discover the new facilities before their official opening. By visiting now, you are participating in this century-long story and contributing to the conservation efforts that make this place a pillar of Barcelona's scientific culture.

THE EXPERIENCE

As soon as you cross the entrance located in Ciutadella Park, the atmosphere changes dramatically. The noise of the city fades away, giving way to the song of birds and the rustling of leaves. The neoclassical architecture of the National Palace stands in the background, creating a striking contrast between human art and wild nature. It is here that your immersion into a world where each species tells a unique story begins.

Sunlight filters through the canopies, illuminating the paved paths that wind their way between the different biomes. You are not simply walking through a zoo; you are traversing entire ecosystems: from the African savanna to the tropical forests. Every step is a discovery, every eye contact with an animal is an invitation to understand our planet. The experience is fluid, soothing, and deeply enriching, ideal for slowing down the urban pace.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS

Ciutat Vella district · Metro: Drassanes (L3, L4) or Ciutadella (L4), exit near the main entrance of Parc de la Ciutadella.

OPENING HOURS

Open from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Hours may vary by season; please check the official website before your visit.

PRICES

Adult: €23 · Child (3-12 years): €13.90 · Free for under 3s. Zoo Club Family Subscription: €70/year. {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 3 to 4 hours to fully enjoy the paths, discovery centers, and keeper encounters. The route is linear but extensive, requiring good physical condition if y

PHOTOS

Personal photography is allowed in all accessible areas. Be careful with flashes near sensitive enclosures and follow posted instructions during close encounter

AUDIENCE

Ideal for families and school groups thanks to its educational approach. Less suitable for people with reduced mobility looking for a short route, as the site i

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

Metro

: Estació de França — 3 min à pied

Barcelona-El Prat International Airport (38 min) · Estació de França (7 min)

Bus

: Estació de França — 3 min à pied

Barcelona-El Prat International Airport (61 min) · Estació de França (9 min)

Car

Barcelona-El Prat International Airport (47 min) · Estació de França (4 min)

Bicing / Bike

Barcelona-El Prat International Airport (63 min) · Estació de França (3 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Barcelona Zoo ?



📍 Parc de la Ciutadella — 08003 Barcelona

🌐 41°23.177′ N, 2°11.229′ E



ORGANIZATION

Linear Path and Themed Zones

Primate and Savanna Zone

This section is home to great apes and African herbivores. You will encounter orangutans, a critically endangered primate species, as well as giraffes whose unique patterns resemble our fingerprints. The enclosures are spacious and faithfully recreate savanna landscapes, allowing visitors to observe the complex social behaviors of these animals.

Invertebrate and Amphibian Center

Often overlooked, this living laboratory is an educational gem. Here, the keepers reveal the hidden curiosities of insects and amphibians, which are essential to ecological balance. It is the ideal place to understand biodiversity invisible to the naked eye and appreciate the complexity of the micro-habitats present in the park.

Outdoor Spaces and Picnic Areas

Distributed throughout the course, these spaces offer shaded rest points. They allow you to take a lunch break or rest after walking the extensive paths. The ground is mostly flat and paved, making it easy to walk even for families with strollers. Take advantage of this to observe the local birds that coexist with the zoo's residents.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Disabled Access**

Main paths are adapted, but check for modified routes due to modernization works.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Ideal for families with school-age children, free for under 3s.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Must-See Encounters with the Keepers

01 Primate Zone

Meeting the Orangutans

This is the star attraction right now, especially during Orangutan Week. These exceptional apes, critically endangered, are presented in a habitat that simulates their native forest. The keepers explain the challenges of their conservation and the close bonds they share with us, humans.

> 💡 Did you know that orangutans use tools to feed? Watch them closely; they are among the most intelligent primates.

02 African Savanna

Giraffes and their unique patterns

Each giraffe has a unique spot pattern, similar to our fingerprints. During encounters with the keepers, we discover how their long necks allow them to survive in the savanna and browse high leaves. It is a fascinating demonstration of evolutionary adaptation.

> 💡 Their blue-black tongue protects their lips from acacia thorns while they feed.

03 Herbivore Enclosure

Warthogs (Phacocheruses)

These impressive African wild pigs are known for their two large tusks, with the lower ones being smaller but much sharper. The keepers will answer all your questions about their group lifestyle and behavior in the bush. A fun and educational encounter for children.

> 💡 Despite their rustic appearance, warthogs are very clean and regularly groom their fur in the dust.

04 Tropical Forest

Mangabeys at Cap Rouge

These African primates, also in critical danger, have recently received a new habitat. Zoo educators show how they protect this species and what measures are taken to ensure their survival. Their agility and social intelligence make them stars of the primate section.

> 💡 They communicate through a variety of calls and subtle gestures, forming tight-knit family groups.

05

Discovery Center

Invertebrate Laboratory

A dive into the often invisible world of insects and crustaceans. The keepers reveal the essential curiosities of these animals, highlighting their vital role in ecosystems. It is a remarkable section that challenges our preconceptions about 'small' fauna.

> 💡 Some invertebrates possess sensory capabilities far superior to ours, detecting imperceptible vibrations.

06

Water Station

Life4ZOO Program

Discover how the zoo manages its water resources in a circular manner. This innovative project shows how every drop of water is reused to maintain natural habitats. It illustrates the zoo's commitment to sustainable and responsible management of its facilities.

> 💡 This system significantly reduces the zoo's ecological footprint, serving as a model for other European institutions.

07

Central Plaza

Special Events and Festivals

The zoo regularly organizes events such as the Heart Festival or celebrations for single-parent families. These moments strengthen the bond between the community and the zoo, offering discounts and special activities. It is an opportunity to experience a festive and supportive atmosphere.

> 💡 The first Heart Festival took place in October 2026, supporting the congenital heart disease association.

08

Main Entrance

Access via Ciutadella Park

The single entrance through the park offers a smooth transition between the city and nature. This architectural approach allows visitors to soak in the green atmosphere before even reaching the enclosures. It is an often underestimated detail that greatly enriches the overall experience.

> 💡 The park itself is a remnant of the 1888 Universal Exposition, adding a historical layer to the visit.

TIPS

Preparing Your Zoo Visit

TIMING

Arrive at opening time, 10:00 AM, to avoid school groups and enjoy absolute tranquility. Opening hours vary by season, so check the exact date on the official website before you go.

TICKET

Buy your tickets online to avoid queues. If you plan multiple visits, the €70 Zoo Club Family subscription is much more cost-effective than individual tickets. Don't forget that children under 3 enter for free.

TOUR

The tour is linear but extensive. Allow at least 3 to 4 hours to fully enjoy it. Follow the numbered map available in the app to identify the areas open during the modernization works.

PHOTO

Photography is allowed everywhere. Be careful with the flash near sensitive enclosures. The best angles for photographing giraffes and primates are often available during keeper encounters.

BREAK

There are several free picnic areas where you can bring your own food. The El Rincón del Zoo restaurant offers convenient fast food for busy families. Don't forget to sort your waste.

CHILDREN

It is an ideal place for first animal discoveries. Children love meeting the keepers. Make sure they wear good shoes, as the ground can be paved and uneven in places.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in French, English, and Spanish. It is particularly useful for understanding the scientific details of the discovery centers and anecdotes about endangered species. I highly recommend it for an in-depth visit.

COMFORT

In summer, bring water and hats as many areas are outdoors. In winter, days are short, so plan your visit quickly. The terrain is mostly flat, suitable for strollers, but check for routes affected by construction work.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I need to book my ticket for the Barcelona Zoo?

No, booking is generally not required for general admission. You can buy tickets directly at the ticket office or online to avoid queues. However, a reservation is required for specialized activities such as holiday camp

Can I cancel my ticket after purchase?

This ticket is neither cancellable nor refundable once the reservation is confirmed. Carefully check the date, time slot, and number of participants before paying, as no changes are possible afterwards.

Is there a current promotion?

The standard adult price is €23, but discounts are available for seniors, pink card holders, and people with functional disabilities. The best value offer is often the Zoo Club annual subscription for regular families.

How do I get the child rate?

The child rate applies to visitors aged 3 to 12 years for a price of €13.90. Toddlers under 3 enter for free. Remember to present an ID if requested at the ticket office to verify age.

What are the zoo opening hours?

The zoo opens at 10:00 AM and closes at 4:30 PM. Last entry is allowed at 4:00 PM. Note that these hours may vary slightly by season, so it is prudent to check the official website before planning your day.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

A social pricing policy

The adult fare of €23 is set to make biodiversity accessible to all residents of Barcelona. Significant discounts are available for seniors, holders of pink cards, and people with functional disabilities, at only €6. This policy aims to include the zoo in the daily life of Barcelona families.

Free admission for toddlers

Children under 3 years old enter for free, making the visit very affordable for young families. Only children aged 3 to 12 pay a reduced rate of €13.90. It is an excellent opportunity to create lasting memories without excessive spending.

Modernization works

A temporary renovation phase currently limits access to a single point in the park. Although some facilities are unavailable, this period will enhance the future experience with new installations. The rest of the zoo remains open and offers a complete experience with a wide variety of species.

No pets allowed

You may not enter with any pet, except guide dogs with the appropriate health permit. This rule is strictly enforced to prevent the presence of dogs or other animals from making zoo residents nervous or stressed. It is an essential measure for the well-being of the wild animals.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The Zoo is ideally located in the heart of the **Ciutadella Park**, a historic haven of peace. Before or after your visit, enjoy a stroll around the lake, where you can rent pedal boats for a fun activity. The **National Palace**, a majestic neoclassical building, overlooks the park and offers breathtaking views of the city. For a quick lunch break, El Rincón del Zoo restaurant is located right nearby. Finally, the Ciutadella Casino, with its neo-Gothic façade, is a major architectural landmark that you will not miss when leaving the park. This perfect integration of heritage and nature makes the visit a complete and memorable day.



Leaving the Barcelona Zoo means taking with you a new perspective on life. It is not just a family outing, but a **lesson in life** given by nature itself. Whether you are a child fascinated by a gorilla or an adult amazed by the complexity of an insect, you leave with the feeling of having touched something essential. Come and experience this unique encounter where science meets magic.