Indian Rhino Feeding

Guests are currently required to wear a mask during the Indian Rhino Encounter.

Updated 10/21
Sensory Key

There are lots of things to see here. It might be bright or hurt my eyes in places where I see this. I can wear sunglasses or cover my eyes.

There are lots of things to hear here. It might be loud in places where I see this. I can wear headphones or cover my ears if it gets too loud.

When I see this there will be things I can taste here. I do not have to put anything in my mouth if I do not want to.

There might be a strong smell in places where I see this. I can hold my nose or cover my nose with something that smells good.

There are lots of things to touch here. There might be things that I feel uncomfortable touching when I see this. I do not have to touch anything that I do not want to.
ZooTampa’s Modified Operation Plan during a Pandemic.

- The park, shops, and restaurants are operating at limited capacity.
- Reservations/Pre-purchased tickets are not required, but are recommended and the only way to guarantee entry.
- Touchless transactions will be available and encouraged.
- Always maintain 6 feet distance between groups.
- Masks are NOT required to outdoor areas of the Zoo except to participate in Signature Encounters and Giraffe Meet and Greet.
- Masks are required at any indoor location on Safari Expedition.
- Handwashing and sanitation stations have been increased throughout the Zoo. Please wash hands frequently using soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Temperature checks are conducted at the entrance. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4F will not be permitted entry.
- If you are feeling sick, please return home and seek medical care.
- Rides are sanitized between use and are operating at limited capacity.
- Some attractions may be closed.
You will notice circle signs that say “Please stay 6 feet apart”, they signs are to help ZooTampa ensure we have lots of space between people.
We are going to the Indian Rhino Feeding Encounter.

The Indian Rhino Feeding Encounter meets at the Signature Encounter meeting area at the front of the park. We can get there by following the map and signs.
Check In

Before we can go meet the rhinos, we will need to check in. At the meeting area there will be an employee who will ask for our name, check us off on their list, then ask us to sign in.
Sometimes there are other people on our tour and we will need to wait for them before we can go meet the rhinos. That’s okay. We will all get a chance to meet the rhinos.

While we wait we can put our face masks on. Face masks help keep the people and animals safe.

Once everyone has arrived and is checked in the employee will go over the rules and answer any questions we have.
When we are ready to begin the employee will lead us down the pathway to the Indian Rhino habitat.

The Indian Rhino habitat is in Asia. We can get there by following the employee.
The employee will unlock the gate for us. Before we can meet the rhino we need to wash our hands. There is a handwashing station inside the habitat.

How to wash your hands properly

1. Wet your hands
2. Liquid soap
3. Lather and scrub - 20 sec
4. Rinse - 10 sec
5. Dry your hands
6. Turn off tap

DON'T FORGET TO WASH:
- between your fingers
- under your nails
- the tops of your hands
Indian Rhino Tour

Before we can go into the Indian Rhino habitat, there will be a talk about rhinos. I will use my listening ears to learn about the animals. If I have questions, I can raise my hand and ask my questions after the talk.
At the habitat entrance the animal care employee will go over the rules and answer any questions we have.

Sometimes there is a line and we need to wait our turn. That’s okay. We will all get a chance to meet the Indian Rhinos.

The animal care employee will tell us when we can enter the habitat and show us which rhino we will be meeting. I will use my walking feet to go to the rhino.
Inside the habitat the animal care employee will ask us to stand on a black mat.

The animal care staff will let me know when I can feed the rhino.
To feed the rhino the animal care employee will put some fruit or vegetables on the end of a long stick. I will use the stick to put the food in the rhino’s mouth. If I do not want to touch the stick, that’s okay. I can have someone help me feed the rhino.
I will keep my hands and feet **away** from the rhino.

The rhino is not for touching.
Sometimes the rhino is in the water, eating, or resting. That’s okay. The animal care team will see if the other rhino wants to come interact with us.
The rhinos are free to walk around. If the rhino makes me nervous, I can always take a step back.
After I am finished meeting the rhinos, I will exit the habitat and wash my hands. There is a handwashing station inside the habitat.
We will then exit the gate and continue our visit at ZooTampa at Lowry Park.
ZooTampa at Lowry Park has teamed up with the Center For Autism & Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida to provide support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism and related disabilities. Please utilize the resources provided to properly plan for your visit to ZooTampa at Lowry Park.

We also recognize the support of Autism Shifts, The Learning Academy, Autism Speaks and the Diversity Action Coalition and applaud their efforts to promote inclusive experiences.”