Visiting Lorikeet Landing

ZooTampa has teamed up with the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida to provide support and assistance to optimize the potential of people who are neurodiverse. We also recognize Autism Shifts, The Learning Academy, Autism Speaks, and the Diversity Action Coalition and applaud their efforts to promote inclusive experiences.
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.
We are going to visit Lorikeet Landing

Lorikeet Landing is between Asian Gardens and Primate World. We can get there by following the map or using the ZooTampa app. In Lorikeet Landing, we will get to see the lorikeets. Maybe we will feed the lorikeets.
When we get to Lorikeet Landing, we will walk through the gift shop to the aviary. If we have food or drinks, we will leave them outside.
Before we can enter the gift store we need to put our face masks on. Face masks help keep people and animals safe. We will also need to use hand sanitizer to help keep everyone healthy.
In the gift shop, we can get food to feed the lorikeets. This costs extra money. Maybe we will feed the lorikeets today. Maybe we will feed the lorikeets another day.

If we do feed the lorikeets, we will be given a small metal cup filled with nectar. Sometimes the cup is sticky. We can wash our hands when we are finished.
If we see a sign on the door that says “feeding time is on”, we can feed the lorikeets. Other times, we will see a sign that says “the birds are temporarily NOT EATING, but please come in”. When this sign is up, we are not able to feed the lorikeets. That is okay. We will still get to see the lorikeets.
Lorikeet Landing is a free flight aviary. The birds are able to fly throughout the habitat. I can always exit if I am uncomfortable. We will see birds in the trees, on the ground, and even flying above us. The birds may make loud sounds. I can cover my ears if I do not like the sounds. I will stay on the sidewalk.
If I am feeding, I will make a fist around the small cup. This makes it easier for the lorikeets to feed. I will not pinch the cup between our fingers.
I will wait patiently for the lorikeets. I will not chase the lorikeets. The lorikeets will come to me and sit on my hand, arm, or shoulder while they drink the nectar. I will stay still while the birds feed.
More than one lorikeet may land on me. The lorikeets might land on my head. Both are okay. If I stay still they will fly away. Just like us, they can get excited about their food. If I start to get nervous, I can always use my walking feet to exit and go to another area of the Zoo.
When I am done, I will go to the hand wash station. There might be a line. When it is my turn, I will wash my hands. I will return the metal cup to the gift shop.
When it is time to leave, we will go to the door with the “exit” sign. I will shut the door behind me and not hold it open. Maybe we will look at the gift shop or maybe we will wait for a different day. We will go through the second gift shop door to exit.
After the encounter, I might have more time to enjoy the Zoo or go home. Either way, I had a good day at the ZooTampa.

Thank you to our community partners!