

A Self-guided Tour to Using Your Senses at the National Zoo



At the Zoo, many people use only their eyes to learn about animals, but there are other ways to learn. Here are some suggestions on how to use your other senses to get a full experience at the Zoo. There are also some places at the Zoo where you can behave like an animal. To understand the senses or the behavior of an animal, you may need to try the behavior out.

Your tour starts at the Panda Plaza and takes you around to different areas of the Zoo where you use your senses and imagination to learn about animals.


Walk up Olmsted Walk until you see the Cheetah Conservation Station on your right.



Race a cheetah – How many of your strides fit in a cheetah's stride? (look at the pathway to find the cheetah's stride)

Be a predator – Stalk, duck, creep, and run to see if you can catch dinner for the night. Did you get your prey? Spin the wheel at the end of the trail to find out.

Continue down Olmsted Walk and take the next right. The Fujifilm Giant Panda Conservation Habitat is at the end of the path.

On the way to the pandas, read about bamboo, pandas' main food source.  **a bamboo stalk.** Imagine having strong enough jaws and teeth to eat bamboo.

When exiting the panda viewing area turn right and continue down the hill. On the right you will find the Nile hippopotamus.

Hippos spend a lot of time underwater to keep cool on hot days. Look in the pool and **see if you can find the hippo** in the water.



Hippos can hold their breath for about six minutes. How long you can **hold your breath?**

Continue around behind the Elephant House and up to the Bird House. The flamingo yard is found in the back.



Flamingos are often seen standing on one leg. How long can they stand on one leg? See if you can **stand on one leg** for as long as a flamingo can.

Go back down the same pathway you came up. At the bottom of the hill before returning to the elephants, turn right and take the path on the right down the hill. Follow that path to Amazonia.



After seeing the underwater animals, head upstairs to the Amazonia habitat. **Listen to the monkeys, birds, frogs, and insects** in the forest section and try to find out where they are by the noises you hear.

Walk back up the hill and take the first path on the right until the split in the road. Take the left pathway up the stairs past the capybara to Lemur Island.



Lemurs use their back legs to jump from tree to tree. They can jump as far as 15 feet, which is almost 11 times the length of their body. Use your powerful legs to see **how far you can jump**. Can you jump 11 times the length of your body?

Walk down Olmsted and take the first pathway on your left to Great Cats and turn right to walk around the circular path.



Listen for the lions roaring to each other, or press the buttons that demonstrate the different lion roars. Listen carefully to try to **hear the number of lions** in each call.

Walk along the Tiger Tracks Trail.

Feel the life-size replicas of a tiger's paw, tongue, and skull. In the Predator Alcove, **feel the differences between cats' skulls** and compare them to each other and a T-Rex skull.

After almost a complete circle turn right and walk toward the Think Tank. On your left find *The Gathering* sculptures by Bart Walter.



Each chimpanzee brings a new personality to the group. Try to identify the different roles played by each sculpture. What personality would you add? Place yourself in the sculpture. You may see clues of group behavior by the Sulawesi macaques in Think Tank or the yards outside.

Next head inside the Think Tank



Feel four replicas of different brains, which include an orangutan's, a human's, an Asian elephant's, and a fin whale's. **Feel the replica of the termite mound**. How do chimpanzees use tools to fish out termites?

Exit through the front door of the Think Tank. Turn right to go behind the Reptile Discovery Center and enter the Invertebrate Exhibit. You will exit the exhibit through the Pollinarium.



Smell the flowers. Guess the different fragrances, and notice the sweet smells and the bad smells. How do they attract different pollinators?

Walk back around to Olmsted Walk and turn right to head up to the Reptile Discovery Center.



Feel the scale samples. Are they what you expected? **Compare the bones** of a sheep and a crocodile and notice their similarities.

Continue up Olmsted Walk and follow the pathway until the Elephant House is on the left.



Smell the smells of the Elephant House. Are they the smells of the animals or the animals' droppings? What do the smells remind you of?

When you exit the Elephant House, turn right and head uphill back to Panda Plaza. Congratulations! We hope you enjoyed your **sensational** tour of the Zoo.