

# Como Park Zoo and Conservatory

## Social Narrative



**This narrative will tell me what I will expect when I visit Como Park Zoo and Conservatory during the cold weather months.**

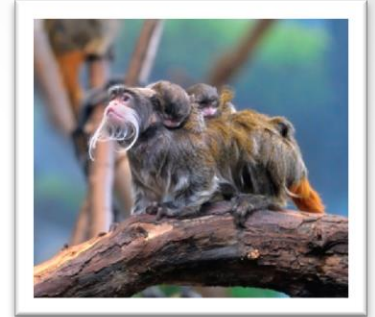
**In this Power Point there will be photos and slides explaining:**

- **Which types animals live in each building or area in the zoo**
- **Expectations and rules I should follow in each area**
- **Sensory information that I might find important before entering each area**

**Look for the above bulleted format on each slide to help understand each area of the zoo. Additional slides for certain buildings provide other important information as needed.**

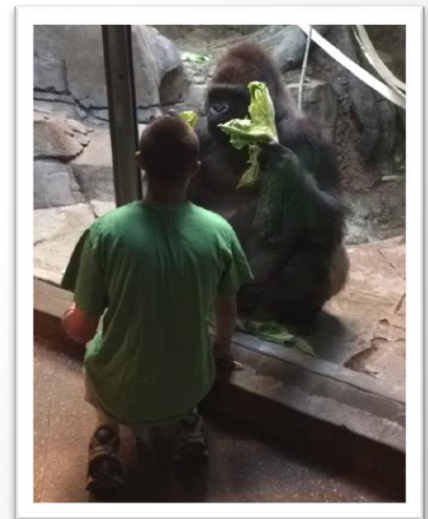
**If I follow the rules and understand the expectations I will have a great visit!**

# Overall Expectations



I am going to Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, while I am there, I will:

- Keep my hands and feet to myself
- Understand that only the zookeepers can touch and feed animals
- Understand that animals stay in enclosures and people stay on walking paths
- Keep a quiet and calm body near windows and exhibits
- I will understand that some buildings and exhibits are only open during certain times and months out of the year
- I will use a quiet voice so I don't scare the animals
- I will stay with my group while exploring
- Understand that by following the rules I will have a great day!



# Map of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory





# Main Entrance

I will be visiting Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. When I arrive I will see the visitor center and a big glass building called the conservatory. The conservatory is where plants from all over the world are kept and taken care of.



# Visitor Center

- The Visitor Center is one place visitors can enter the zoo. Inside the visitor center there is a gift shop, restaurant, the Tropical Rainforest exhibit, as well as restrooms. Como staff work here too.
- When I enter the visitor center there will be a Como staff member taking donations, the Como Zoo and Conservatory is free but some people choose to give money to help run the zoo.
- The visitor center lobby can sometimes be loud and echoey. During the day the sun can make it very bright. I may also be able to smell the food cooking at the Zöbota Café .



# Primate Building

- The primate building is where Como's monkeys and apes live.
- There are two ways to travel through the indoor portion of the primate building, either on the upper path which is further away from the exhibits, or the lower path which allows me to get very close to the primates.  
If I choose to go on the path that puts me close to the primates' exhibits, I will keep a quiet and calm body near windows so I don't scare the monkeys and apes.  
There are computers located at the top of the walking path which help me learn more about primates. I might have to wait in line to use a computer.
- Sometimes the primate building can be very warm. It is dark in some areas of the the primate building. This building can sometimes be very crowded. The primate building has fake plants on the ceiling. Sometimes music is playing from speakers in the primate building.



Lower  
Path



Upper  
Path



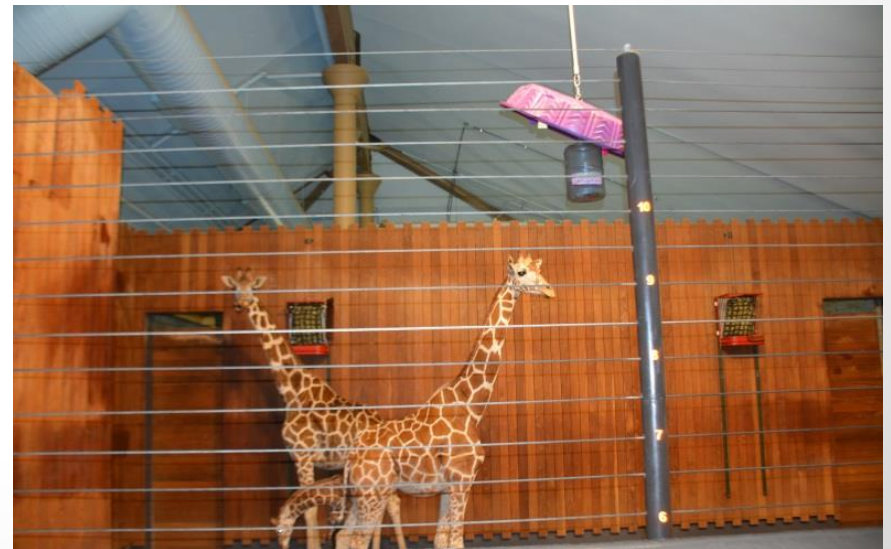
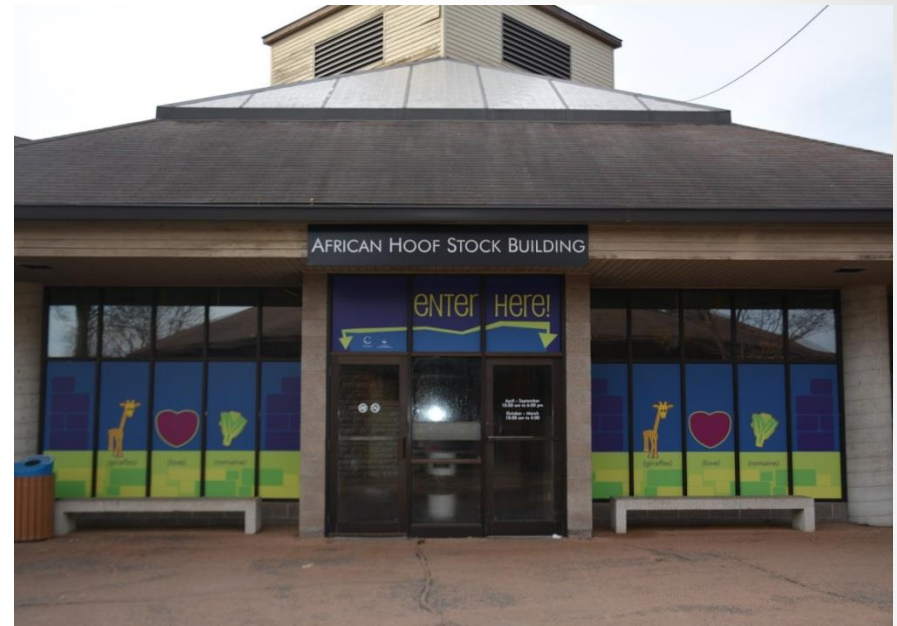
# Gorilla Forest

- Gorilla forest is another area where I can see Como's Gorillas in their indoor or outdoor enclosures. There is also an area where zoo keepers train the gorillas and the public can watch.
- There is a blue machine called the mold machine that makes small toys as souvenirs, when it's being used it can be noisy. It costs money to make a small mold machine toy. I can find more of these machines in other exhibits around the zoo. If I choose to make a toy, I may have to wait in line.
- Gorilla forest is dark. It has fake netting and plants on the ceiling for decoration. It can be smelly in here. Sometimes music is playing on a speaker in this area.



# Hoof Stock Indoor Exhibits

- The hoof-stock animals are animals that have hooves for feet. African hoof stock animals have two indoor buildings for the cold winter months. The giraffe, zebra, and Kudu are animals that need to be indoors in the winter. There will be other African animals in this building; Their homes are in a pretend tree located in the middle of the exhibit.
- I should make sure to have a quiet voice and calm body around these animals because they can get scared very easily. I will keep my feet on the floor.
- These exhibits have strong smells. These exhibits can be very warm.





# Hoof Stock Outdoor Exhibits

- Some hoof stock animals can be outdoors all year long in Minnesota. These animals include bison, reindeer, Dall's sheep, and one type without hooves- arctic foxes.
- The outdoor hoof stock animals have two fences protecting them and me. My feet will stay on the sidewalk. This will keep me and the animals safe. When approaching the animals it is important that I keep a calm body and quiet voice so the animals feel safe and don't get scared.
- Some of these animals can be smelly, like the Bison and the Arctic fox. I can sometimes smell them as I approach their exhibits.



# Wolf Woods

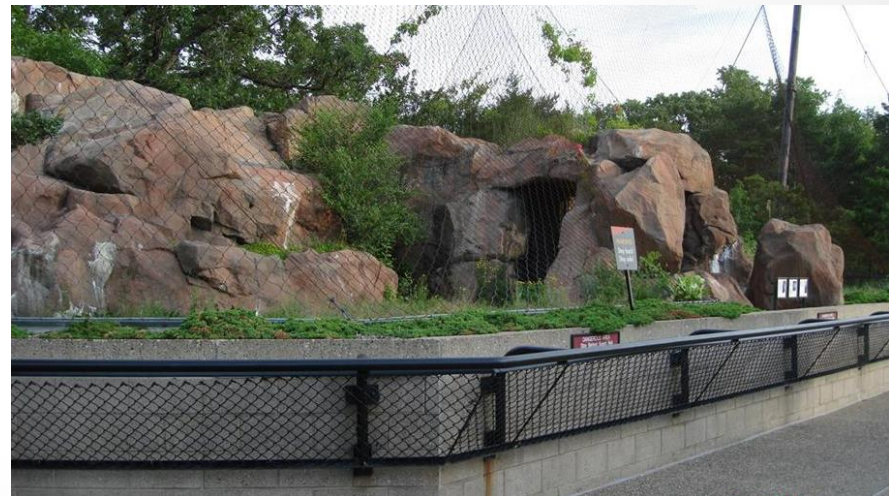
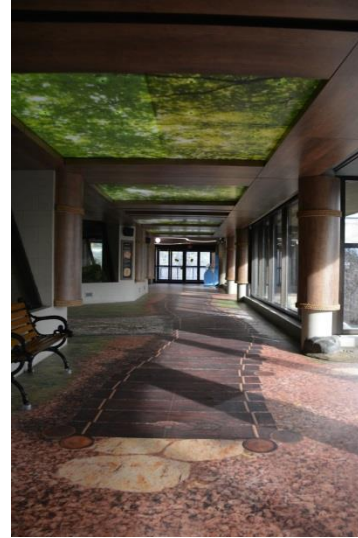
- Como is home to two gray wolves. Wolf Woods is where they live.
- Sometimes it is hard to see the wolves since their exhibit is so big. Their exhibit has 2 fences, the fence closest to the path will not hurt me if I touch it, but it is there to protect me and the animals. I will keep my feet on the walking path.
- Sometimes I will hear the wolves barking or howling. It can be loud.





# Big Cat Building

- Here you will find Como's big cats. Como has two places to view our cats. I can see them by walking through the indoor exhibit or by crossing the outdoor cat bridges. In the winter, the Lions stay indoors.
- I might not be able to see all of the cats. Some cats might hide in their exhibits making it hard to find them.
- If I choose to see the cats from the inside, I will smell a strong smell when I walk inside the building.  
There are fake leaves on the ceiling and a pretend wooden path on the ground. Sometimes I will see reflections of lights in the exhibit windows. It can be bright in this building on a sunny day. Sometimes there is music playing on a speaker in here.





# Big Cat Building Cont.

The indoor cat exhibit will have a jeep that I can sit in and pretend that I am on a safari. The jeep can make loud noises if I push certain buttons. I might have to wait my turn so others can have a chance to sit in the pretend jeep. The jeep faces the indoor lion exhibit.



There is a machine called the mold machine that makes small toys as souvenirs, when it's being used it can be noisy. It costs money to make a small mold machine toy. I might have to wait in line.



# Polar Bear Odyssey

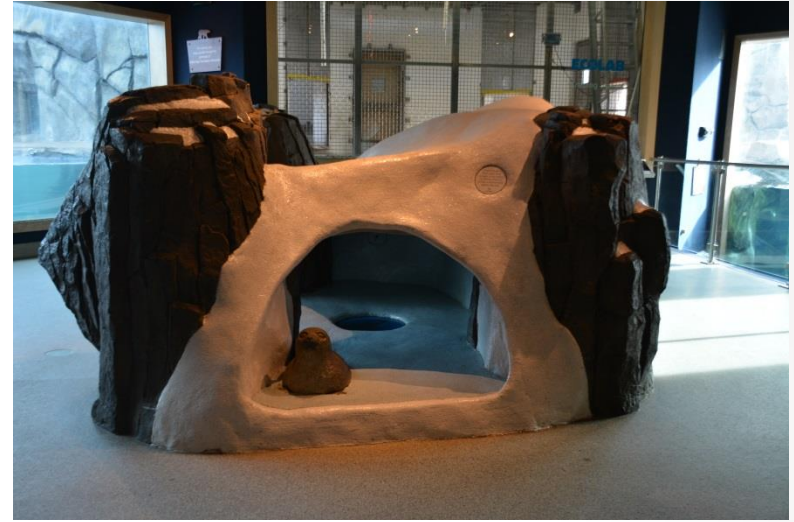
- Polar Bear Odyssey is where Como's two polar bears live. There are indoor and outdoor areas to view the bears.
- There are two entrances to polar bear odyssey. Both entrances have a long path that takes me to the door. The entrance looks like a cave made of rocks.
- Polar bear Odyssey can be bright when the sun is shining. It can sometimes be noisy and crowded when lots of visitors are in here.





# Polar Bear Odyssey Cont.

Polar Bear Odyssey has a pretend seal home that I can crawl through. I will climb inside the seal home when it is my turn. If there already people inside, I may need to wait my turn.



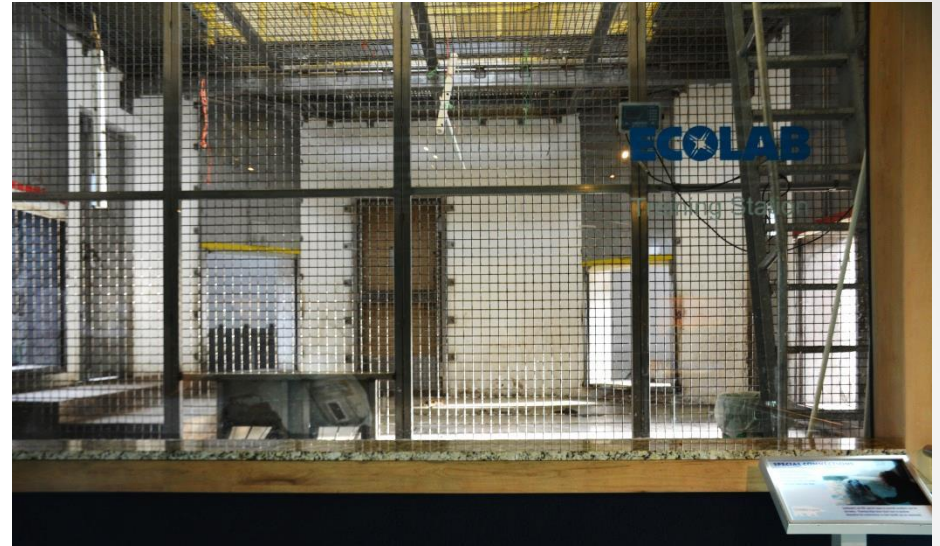
Polar Bear Odyssey has iPads and other learning tools to teach me about how I can help polar bears. Sometimes I will have to wait my turn to use these items when someone else is using them.





# Polar Bear Odyssey Cont.

Sometimes the polar bears are having a special training session in this area called the training vestibule. This is where the zookeepers work with the bears to help make sure they are healthy. They can weigh the bears and look closely at their bodies.

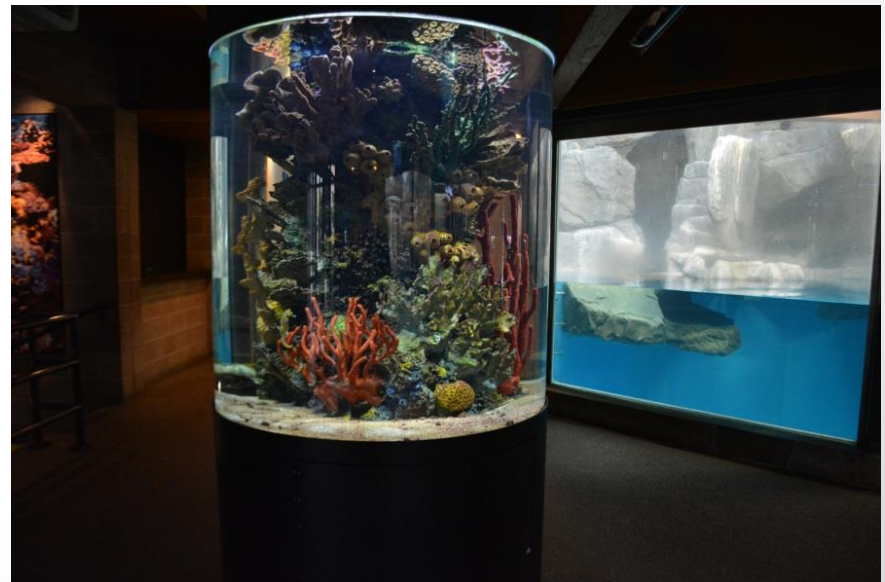


Sometimes it can be hard to spot the bears. There are several places to look. I can look for the bears indoors or outdoors. Sometimes they are swimming, sometimes they are hiding in their bedroom areas. Sometimes they are walking around in their outdoor exhibit area. If I am patient and look close I might see a bear.



# Aquatics Building

- The Aquatic animal building is home to many different animals that depend on water to live. These animals include: salt and fresh water fish, seals, sea lions, puffins, and penguins.
- The sea lion exhibit has a metal bar in front of it to keep visitors and animals safe. If I keep my feet on the ground and do not stand on the bar I will stay safe. I should also be careful of water on the floor so I do not slip.
- This building has a very strong, fishy smell. It is dark in certain spots in this building. This building has a small theatre seating area where a short movie is being played. It is a nice place to take a break, sit down and relax.





# Aquatics Building Cont.

There are two machines called the mold machines that makes small toys as souvenirs in the aquatics building. When it's being used it can be noisy. It costs money to make a small mold machine toy. I may have to wait in line if I want to make one.





# Additional Information

**If I am attending the early entry days at Como**

**The zoo grounds will open at 9:00AM**

**Below are a list of places that will open at 10:00AM**

- Tropical Encounters rainforest exhibit
- The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory gardens
- The Garden Safari Gift Shop
- Zöbota Café

**Will open at 10:00AM**

# Additional Information

- If I need help, have a question, or get separated from my group, I need to locate a staff member who is wearing a Como Park Zoo and Conservatory name tag. They will help me.
- There is construction happening around the Zoo for the new Seals and Sea Lions exhibit. If I've been to Como before, it might look different this time and I may need to take a different path to my destination.
- Most restrooms around the zoo will be open.
- Como Town amusement park and other outdoor restaurants and gift shops are closed during cold weather months.





# Thank You For Reading!

We look forward to seeing you soon at  
Como Park Zoo and Conservatory!

