Los Angeles Zoo

Visit & Review

FULL VIDEO TRANSCRIPT | WSA SCORECARD RATINGS

Baby Orangutan & Chimp Steal the Show!

133 acres | 1,700 animals | 270 species | Los Angeles, CA

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Los Angeles Zoo Visit & Review

LOCATION: LOS ANGELES, CA | CATEGORY: ZOO | FEATURED: ORANGUTAN, CHIMPANZEE

Wildly Seen Adventures visits the Los Angeles Zoo for an incredible encounter with a baby orangutan and chimpanzees. This 133-acre zoo in Griffith Park houses about 1,700 animals across 270 different species with a focus on endangered animals.

FEATURED SPECIES PROFILE

Orangutan (Pongo pygmaeus)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	**Pongo pygmaeus**	CLASS	**Mammalia**
HABITAT	**Tropical rainforest**	DIET	**Omnivore**
LIFESPAN	**35-45 years**	WEIGHT	**30-90 kg**

Full Video Transcript

VIDEO: BABY ORANGUTAN & CHIMP STEAL THE SHOW! | LOS ANGELES ZOO VISIT & REVIEW

[0:00 - 0:21]
Are you looking for a wild experience that can be a full day activity right here in the city of LA? Well, welcome to Wildly Seen Adventures. We're here to help you capture the spirit and culture of wildlife spaces so you can choose the perfect experience for your family. Today our adventure takes us to the Los Angeles Zoo.

[0:22 - 0:38]
The Los Angeles Zoo is 133 acres and has about 1,700 animals. 270 different species are housed here and they focus on endangered animals. Here's the prices.

[0:41 - 0:56]
Adults are $27, children are $22. During my visit they were winding down the Zoo Lights at Night program. It runs from November to January with large animal themed sculptures, winter scene photo apps and of course an opportunity to visit Santa.

[1:01 - 1:16]
Here's the Karana exhibit. It looks like they have some giant river otters next door. Here's the Rekold Hornbill.

[1:20 - 1:44]
Here's a new arrival, a Palm Cockatoo. Here's the Sumatran Rhino. Here's the Siamese.

[1:48 - 2:09]
This is the Steller's Sea Eagle enjoying the morning sun. Here are the Red River Hogs. The ostrich is the largest living bird with a typical ostrich egg weighing about as much as two dozen chicken eggs.

[2:12 - 2:25]
Here's the Okapi eating some lunch. The relatives of the giraffe may have a long purple tongue like giraffes too. The Madagascar Radiated Tortoise.

[2:25 - 2:44]
They have a group of colobus monkeys and colobus comes from an ancient Greek word that translates as mutilated, referring to the colobus monkey's lack of thumbs. They are one of very few primates without a thumb. The giraffes are a popular exhibit.

[2:52 - 3:20]
Here's the chimpanzee enclosure. They have a baby orangutan. Ring-tailed lemurs live in troops of up to 30 and hold their tails high which helps them keep track of each other.

[3:24 - 3:36]
Here are a couple of bighorn sheep. Here's the Babirusa. Here's the collared peccary.

[3:39 - 3:54]
Tasmanian devils are only found in very few zoos outside of Australia. Cute little devils aren't they? The wombat is a nocturnal marsupial from Australia and Tasmania. Rhinoceros Hornbill.

[3:55 - 4:07]
Cassowaries live in rainforests in New Guinea and Australia and are often considered the world's most dangerous bird. A group of flamingos. And we'll finish up the day with the meerkat.

[4:08 - 4:25]
LA Zoo Lights is the zoo's annual holiday celebration and runs from 6 to 10 pm November through early January. Admission is not included with regular zoo admission. Visitors can walk through exhibits, view huge lantern sculptures, and can buy food and beverages including hot chocolate and pastries.

[4:27 - 4:55]
Visitors can also purchase gifts, clothing, and other souvenirs at the LA Zoo Marketplace. Let's see how the Los Angeles Zoo does on the Wildly Seen Adventures scorecard. We rate five categories.

[4:55 - 5:19]
Mission focus, educational value, habitat and visibility, accessibility and amenities, and interaction level, then finish with an overall impression. Mission focus gets a rating of four out of five stars. The Los Angeles Zoo has a clearly documented conservation strategic plan and publishes annual reports outlining its efforts.

[5:20 - 5:40]
They partner with conservation organizations locally and internationally and prioritize endangered species. As a zoo operated by the City of Los Angeles, their conservation activity feels aligned with their public funding and resources. Educational value gets 4.5 out of 5 stars.

[5:41 - 5:54]
Educationally, this zoo delivers. The World of Birds show is engaging and well produced, and there are scheduled keeper talks for chimpanzees and gorillas. Zoo members also have access to special tours and behind the scenes programs.

[5:54 - 6:12]

Given the zoo's size, there's room for even more interpretive experiences, but what's offered is high quality and intentional. I rated habitat and visibility at 4.5 out of 5 stars. Overall, habitats are spacious, appropriate and thoughtfully designed.

[6:13 - 6:30]
Most animals were active and visible during our visit. A couple of minor drawbacks were the nocturnal house was extremely dim, so dim that spotting the wombats was challenging, and the chimpanzee viewing glass was noticeably dirty which made it hard to see the baby clearly. Small issues, but worth noting.

[6:34 - 6:54]
Accessibility and amenities gets 4 out of 5 stars. At 133 gently sloping acres, this is a large zoo and you'll definitely get your steps in. There's a shuttle available that seniors and guests with disabilities can ride for a reduced fee, which is helpful, but complimentary access would make an even stronger accessibility statement.

[6:55 - 7:11]
Additional amenities include stroller and wheelchair rentals, a children's play park, the carousel and picnic areas. You can bring in outside food, but there's 8 locations to purchase food with 2 of them operating weekends only. There's plenty of options here for a full day visit.

[7:14 - 7:25]
I gave interaction level 3 out of 5 stars. Hands-on wildlife interaction is limited. The flamingo mingle appears to be the only wild animal feeding experience.

[7:25 - 7:44]
There's also a traditional petting zoo with domestic farm animals. If interactive encounters are a top priority for your family, this may feel somewhat limited compared to other facilities. That brings the overall Wildly Seen Adventure score to 4 stars.

[7:45 - 8:03]
The Los Angeles Zoo is a great place to spend a day with family. You'll see a wide range of incredible animals, learn something meaningful and likely hit your daily steps goal in the process. Between the bird show, keeper talks and optional carousel or tram ride, there's enough variety to fill an entire day.

[8:04 - 8:27]
And if you still have energy afterward, explore the old zoo area also in Griffith Park. This original zoo closed in 1966, and today you can walk through the abandoned cages and enclosures, a fascinating bit of local history, at no charge. And that's it for this Wildly Seen Adventure.

[8:27 - 8:38]
If you found this review helpful, fun or useful for planning your next wildlife visit, give it a like and subscribe. More zoos, sanctuaries and wildly memorable adventures are coming soon.

WSA Scorecard Ratings

WILDLY SEEN ADVENTURES FIELD REPORT | LOS ANGELES ZOO | OVERALL: 4.0 / 5.0

Mission Focus

★★★★☆ 4.0 / 5.0

Conservation commitment and transparency

The Los Angeles Zoo has a clearly documented conservation strategic plan and publishes annual reports outlining its efforts. They partner with conservation organizations locally and internationally and prioritize endangered species. As a zoo operated by the City of Los Angeles, their conservation activity feels aligned with their public funding and resources.

Educational Value

★★★★★ 4.5 / 5.0

Signage quality, keeper talks, and programs

Educationally, this zoo delivers. The World of Birds show is engaging and well produced, and there are scheduled keeper talks for chimpanzees and gorillas. Zoo members also have access to special tours and behind the scenes programs. Given the zoo's size, there's room for even more interpretive experiences, but what's offered is high quality and intentional.

Habitat & Visibility

★★★★★ 4.5 / 5.0

Enclosure design and animal viewing experience

Overall, habitats are spacious, appropriate and thoughtfully designed. Most animals were active and visible during our visit. A couple of minor drawbacks: the nocturnal house was extremely dim, so dim that spotting the wombats was challenging, and the chimpanzee viewing glass was noticeably dirty which made it hard to see the baby clearly. Small issues, but worth noting.

Accessibility & Amenities

★★★★☆ 4.0 / 5.0

Paths, restrooms, food, and family friendliness

At 133 gently sloping acres, this is a large zoo and you'll get your steps in. There's a shuttle available that seniors and guests with disabilities can ride for a reduced fee, which is helpful, but complimentary access would make an even stronger accessibility statement. Additional amenities include stroller and wheelchair rentals, a children's play park, the carousel and picnic areas. You can bring in outside food, but there's 8 locations to purchase food with 2 of them operating weekends only.

Interaction Level

★★★☆☆ 3.0 / 5.0

Touch tanks, feeding, behind-the-scenes access

Hands-on wildlife interaction is limited. The flamingo mingle appears to be the only wild animal feeding experience. There's also a traditional petting zoo with domestic farm animals. If interactive encounters are a top priority for your family, this may feel somewhat limited compared to other facilities.

OVERALL WSA SCORE

★★★★☆ **4.0** / 5.0

Overall Impression

The Los Angeles Zoo is a great place to spend a day with family. You'll see a wide range of incredible animals, learn something meaningful and likely hit your daily steps goal in the process. Between the bird show, keeper talks and optional carousel or tram ride, there's enough variety to fill an entire day.

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