



Guests are currently required to wear a mask during the Aldabra Tortoise Encounter.

Aldabra Tortoise Encounter

ZooTampa has teamed up with the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida to provide support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people who are neurodiverse. We also recognize the support Autism Shifts, The Learning Academy, Autism Speaks, and the Diversity Action Coalition and applaud their efforts for promoting 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.

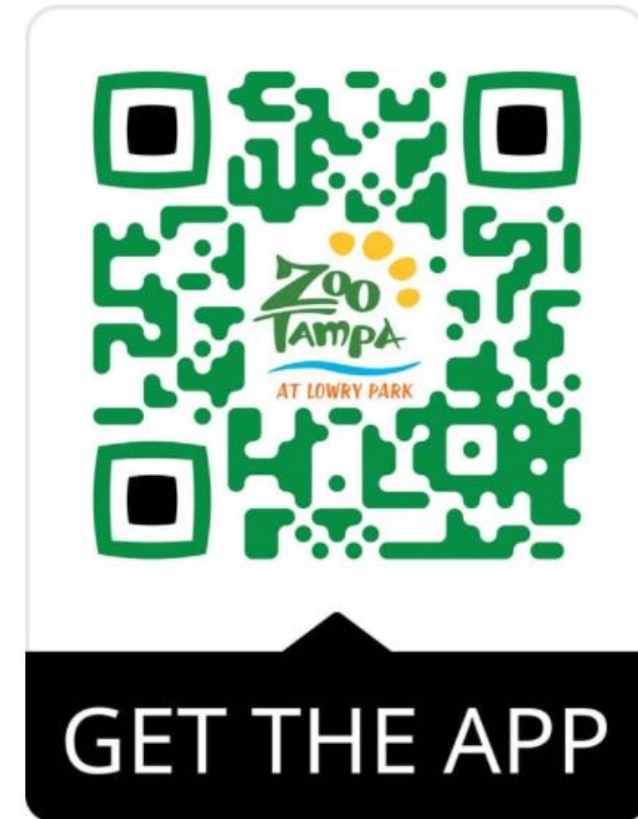


There might be a strong smell in places where I see this. I can hold my nose or cover my nose with something that smells good.



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 can find the Aldabra tortoise habitat by using the ZooTampa app or map.



Before we can go into the tortoise encounter space, an employee of ZooTampa will ask my name.

Next, they will look at a piece of paper to make sure I am at the correct encounter.

Then I will sign my name on a piece of paper.

While I wait, I can put my face masks on. Face masks help keep people and animals safe.



After I walk through the gate, I must sanitize my hands.

Next, I will wait and then meet the tortoise. I might be excited, nervous, or scared. It is ok to feel those emotions.



Tortoise Talk

First, we will listen to the Animal Care Professional talk about the tortoises at ZooTampa.

Next, we will go through a gate into the tortoise habitat.

I will use my listening ears to learn about the animals. If I have questions, I can raise my hand after the talk and ask my questions.



If other people are inside the tortoise habitat, I may have to wait my turn to meet the tortoise.

I will have a turn to meet the tortoise's after I wait.

I can stay on the black circle on the ground near the gate.

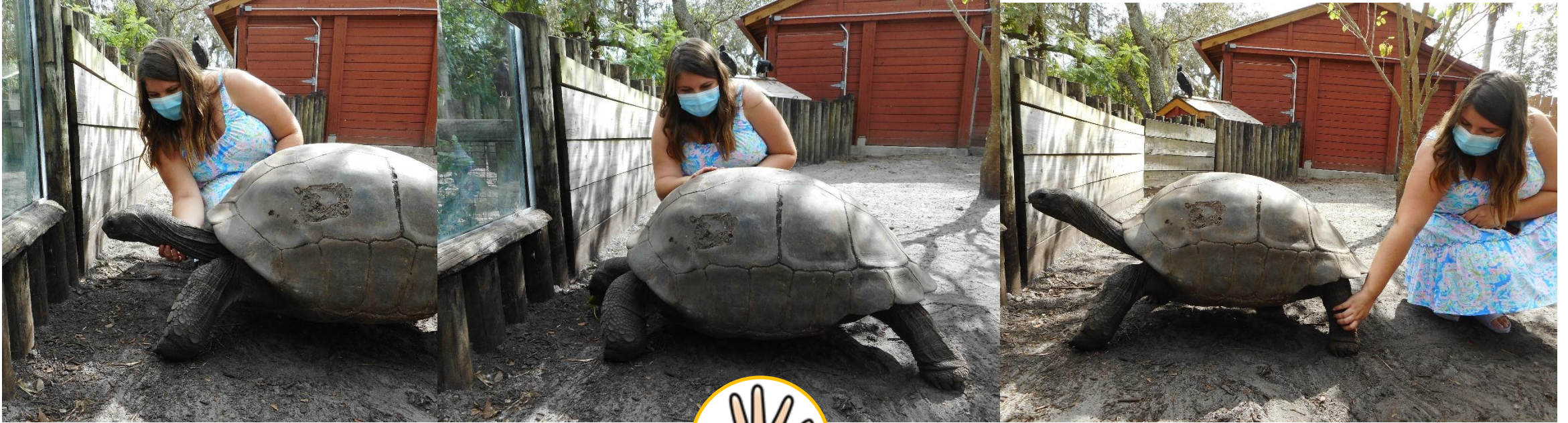


I will meet an Animal Care Professional at the habitat entrance. They will communicate the expectations for the experience and answer questions.

The Animal Care Professional will tell us when we can enter the habitat and show us which tortoise we will be meeting.

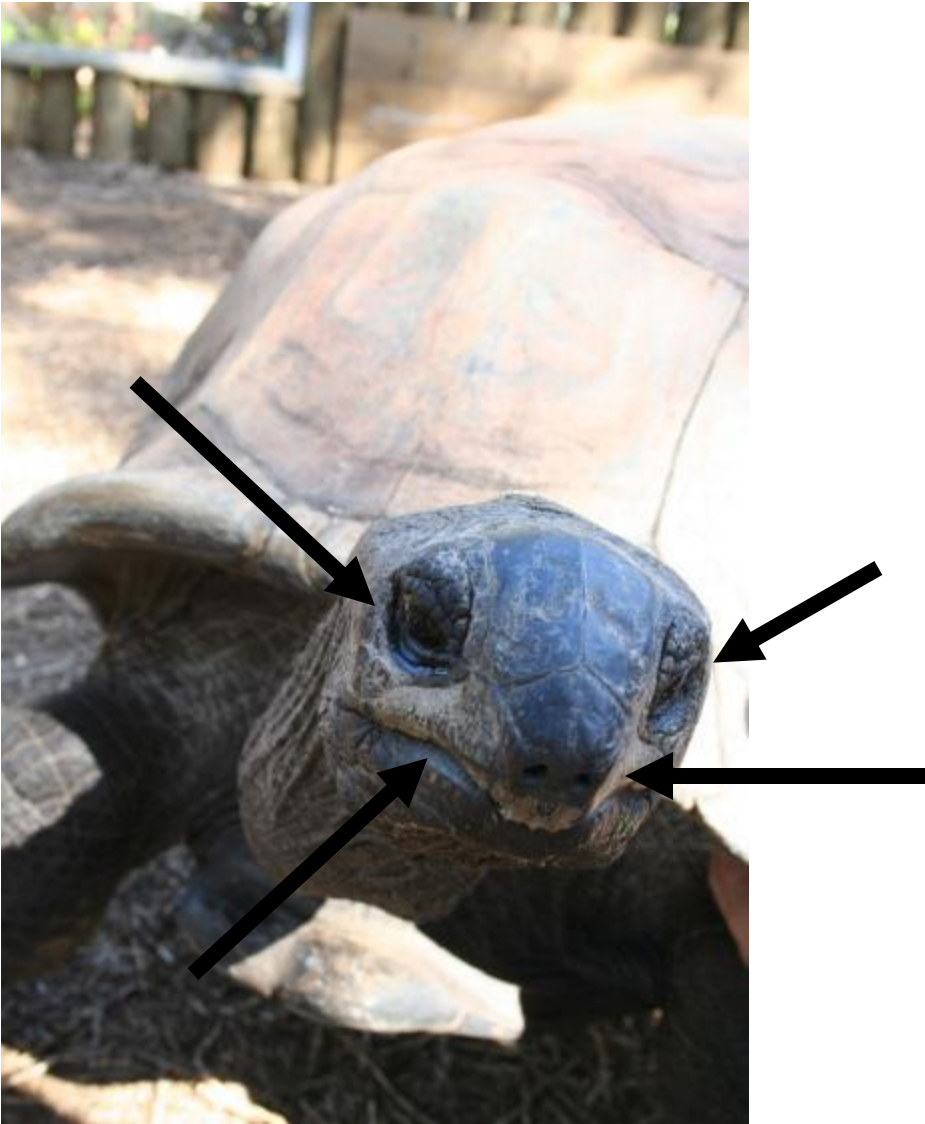
I will use my walking feet to go to the tortoise.





If I would like, I CAN gently touch the tortoises on their neck, shell, or legs. The Animal Care Professional will be nearby to answer questions.

I will keep my hands **away**
from the tortoise's
eyes, nose or mouth.



When a tortoise is in the water, eating, or resting; I must stay away from them.

I can touch the other tortoises.



The tortoises are free to walk around. If a tortoise makes me nervous, I can always take a step back. When a tortoise is walking, I will make sure my feet are not in the way.



After meeting the tortoise, I will exit the habitat and sanitize my hands. I will exit down the path.

There is a restroom in Africa where I can wash my hands.



After the encounter, I might have more time to enjoy the Zoo, or I might have to go home.

Either way, I had a good day at ZooTampa.

THANK YOU

We thank our many like-minded partners for their support to produce materials to enhance the experience of guests at ZooTampa.



The Lowry Murphey Family Foundation, Inc.

