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Free of charge* Additional cost applies**





Our Commitment:

The Living Desert is dedicated to creating a safe, navigable environment, so that visitors of all ages and abilities can enjoy nature. The Living Desert is proud to be a Certified Autism Center™ and is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California Access Laws.

What is Access-Friendly:

Being access-friendly means fostering an inclusive environment where all individuals—regardless of physical, sensory, or cognitive abilities—can fully participate in and enjoy their experience. At The Living Desert, this includes offering wheelchair-accessible paths, sensory-friendly resources, inclusive educational programs, and staff trained to support a wide range of needs.

As a zoo, being access-friendly also means ensuring that everyone can connect with animals, nature, and conservation in meaningful ways. From accessible viewing areas and tactile experiences to quiet zones and support services, we strive to remove barriers so that every guest can explore, learn, and feel welcome.

Contact Information:

Our team is here to support your visit and ensure a positive experience for everyone. For questions, assistance, or accessibility-related inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact us at Schoolfieldtrips@livingdesert.org or (760) 636-3473.





Booking Your Field Trip:

The first step in planning your field trip is submitting a School Field Trips Inquiry Form to confirm your date.

When filling out the form, please be sure to indicate:

- The number of accessibility buses your group will be bringing
- Contact us at <u>Schoolfieldtrips@livingdesert.org</u> or <u>(760) 636-3473</u> if your group includes any medical aides or support staff

Nurses, medical staff, and 1-1 aides are eligible for complimentary admission when attending with a school group. School Field Trips Staff must be made aware of any medical staff receiving complimentary admission at least 1 week prior to the date of your school field trip. Adjustments to your invoice for medical staff receiving complimentary admission cannot be made day-of.

Parking Information:

When you arrive at The Living Desert, accessible entry is available whether you're coming by school bus or personal vehicle.

- **School Buses:** If you're arriving in school buses, designated bus parking is available. This area includes wheelchair-accessible ramps that lead directly to the sidewalk. These ramps are clearly marked on the map for your convenience.
- **Personal Vehicles:** Groups arriving in personal vehicles should park in the main guest parking lot. From there, accessible ramps lead to the sidewalks, which connect to both the bus parking area and the main admission gates. These routes are also highlighted on the map.

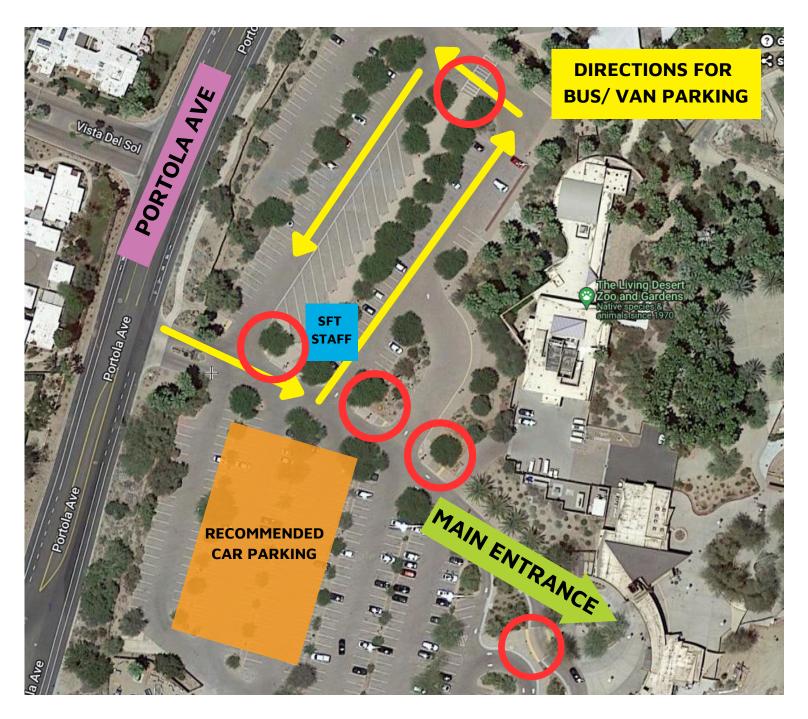
Please refer to the red circles on the map attached, which indicate the locations of wheelchair-accessible ramps leading to the sidewalks. If you have any questions before your visit, feel free to contact us for assistance.



PARKING LOT MAP

FOR SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Please refer to the red circles on the map, which indicate the locations of wheelchair-accessible ramps leading to the sidewalks. If you have any questions before your visit, feel free to contact us for assistance.







RESOURCES AVAILABLE

FOR SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Accessibility Map:

To help you navigate The Living Desert, we offer a detailed <u>digital map</u> that's easy to access in several ways. You can view the map on any mobile device through our official Living Desert app, on our website, or by scanning QR codes available on this page and throughout the Welcome Center at the zoo entrance.

This digital map includes all exhibits, amenities, and walking paths to help guide your visit.

For guests who benefit from additional support, Sensory Maps are available for free check out at Guest Services for the day. These physical maps highlight sensory-friendly areas, quiet zones, and locations that may have higher sensory input, making it easier for individuals with sensory sensitivities to plan their visit comfortably.

While we do not offer general physical maps, the sensory map is a helpful resource for guests who may need a more customized experience. For a full Sensory Guide, visit this page.

Sensory Processing Needs:

The Living Desert aims to offer an inclusive experience for all, including those with sensory sensitivities. To support this mission, we provide ongoing training to our staff and offer the following resources and accommodations:

Sensory Resources

At no cost, guests can borrow sensory resources such as fidget tools, noise-canceling headphones, weighted lap pads, and more. These items are available for checkout at our Admissions windows or the Guest Services Office, conveniently located just beyond the Zoo Entrance. Guests are required to leave a valid photo ID to borrow these resources, which will be returned when the items are checked back in.

Sensory Maps

Our Sensory Maps offer valuable information and highlight areas that may be loud, crowded, interactive, smelly, or dark, as well as quieter and more peaceful areas within the park.

Sight-Impaired Needs:

The Zoo offers monoculars to aid our sight-impaired guests. If a sight-impaired guest is accompanied and needs assistance by an aid, the aid is offered a complimentary daytime admission ticket to the Zoo.

*These items require that our guests fill out an Equipment Checkout Form and provide an ID and credit card number. There is a \$50 charge for any equipment that is not returned.



RESOURCES AVAILABLE

FOR SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

Hearing-Impaired Needs:

The Zoo offers an Assistive Listening Device that can aid hearing. If a hearing-impaired guest is accompanied and needs assistance by an aid, the aid is offered a complimentary daytime admission ticket to the Zoo.

*These items require that our guests fill out an Equipment Checkout Form and provide an ID and credit card number. There is a \$50 charge for any equipment that is not returned.

Individuals with Service Animals:

Only working service animals are permitted. If you require a service dog, you must notify the Admissions staff to alert our Animal Care Department. Certain areas of the Zoo are restricted. Please view our complete <u>Service Animal Policy</u> located on our website.

Pets are not allowed in the park. For safety reasons, please do not leave a pet in your car.

Mobility Needs:**

The Zoo features wide, paved pathways for strollers and wheelchairs. Rentals, including child strollers, wheelchairs, and electric scooters, are available at the entrance on a first-come, first-served basis. Availability and prices may vary.

Daily Rentals:

Single Strollers: \$8.00*
Double Strollers: \$10.00*
Wheelchair: \$15.00*

• Electric Scooter/Electric Convenience Vehicle (Must be 18+ years or older): \$30.00*

*All rental prices are pre-sales tax.





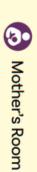
GUEST SERVICES:

· · · Nature trail

ADVENTURES

- Restrooms
- 🚓 Adult Changing Table

- Drinking Fountain
- First Aid Station
- **Automated External** Defibrillator (AED)



Information | Lost and Found Stroller/Wheelchair/ECV Rentals



Water Bottle Refill Station



BCCES Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

TOUCH African Safari

TASTE

Palm Desert, CA

ISD#9123

SOUND

SIGHT

SMELL

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Outdoors/natural light

May be in close

Low impact on this

Potential for close

proximity/shared

space with other

Some animal

visitors

noises may be

present

sense

proximity to other

guests

 Some animal scents may be present

May be in close

Low impact on this

Potential for close

space with other

proximity/shared

Outdoors/natural light

visitors

sense

proximity to other

guests

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

TOUCH Australian Adventures

TASTE

SOUND

Palm Desert, CA

ISD#9122

SIGHT

SMELL

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- Exhibit in direct sunlight, some shading available

Some mechanical

sounds noticeable

in reptile area

 Some free-roaming wallabies animals such as

> Some animal scents may be in reptile area present, particularly

activities on educational variety of hands participate in a

Visitors can

guests

May be in close

Low impact on this

Potential for close

Some natural

lighting along with artificial lighting

with other visitors proximity indoors

sense

proximity to other

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

Discovery Center

TOUCH

TASTE

SOUND

Palm Desert, CA

ISD#9125





SIGHT



SMELL



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Low impact on this

sense

Some bright colors

Humming sound

from sand grain

container

Engaging visuals and activities

the ride moves

 Must be able to sit and grasp as

circle as they ride and down in a

Riders move up

Low impact on this

Potential for close

space with other

proximity/shared

visitors

sense

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

TOUCH

Endangered Species Carousel

TASTE



SOUND

Palm Desert, CA



SIGHT

SMELL

ISD#9121

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Outdoors/natural light, some shade

Artificial lights are a feature of this ride

 Music is a feature of this ride

 Some bright colors and movement

 Potential for dizziness

> Low impact on this sense

guests

May be in close

proximity to other

structures

jump, play, and climb on play Visitors can slide,

Low impact on this

Potential for close

Outdoors/natural

visitors

space with other proximity/shared

Play at your own

pace

Hands-on

interaction

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

Gecko Gulch Play Park

TASTE

TOUCH

Palm Desert, CA

ISD#9128

SOUND

SIGHT

SMELL

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 Low impact on this sense

guests

Hands-on animal

Low impact on this

Background music

plays in this area

Potential for close

visitors

space with other

proximity/shared

interaction

May be in close

proximity to other

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

Palm Desert, CA

Giraffe Feeding

TOUCH

TASTE



SOUND





SIGHT



SMELL

ISD#10746



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 View animals throughout this area

> Some animal scents may be present

Outdoors/natural light

structure around the

model train going and the moving model railroad Visitors can

Low impact on this

Potential for close

sense

explore around the intricate

May be in close

proximity to other

guests

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

Palm Desert, CA

ISD#9127

TOUCH G-Scale Model Train

TASTE

SOUND



SIGHT



SMELL





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Outdoors/natural

Some bright colors

visitors

space with other proximity/shared

 Intricate designs, explore small details to

> Low impact on this sense

this activity three routes for

Must be able to

walk and balance

unpaved terrain on uneven/

BCCES | Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

Palm Desert, CA

ISD#9124

TOUCH Nature and Hiking Trails TASTE

SIGHT

SOUND





SMELI



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 Potential for shared space with other visitors

Explore at your

Low impact on this

own pace

Visitors can

choose one of

Outdoors/natural

 Experience in direct sunlight, some shading available

> Some plant and animal scents may be present

stations, potentia the hand washing

to get wet.

May be in close

proximity to other

guests

Visitors must use

gentle touch that includes Animal interaction

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

Petting Kraal

TOUCH

TASTE

SOUND



Palm Desert, CA

ISD#9120



SIGHT



SMELL



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 Scent from animals present and

noticeable

 Potential for close space with other proximity/shared Outdoors/natural

Low impact on this

sense

 Exhibit in direct shade available sunlight, some

Some animal

visitors

noises

 Multiple freeroaming animals in

guests

May be in close proximity to other

Low impact on this

Potential for close

space with other

proximity/shared

visitors

sense

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

Wild Americas

TOUCH

TASTE

SOUND

Palm Desert, CA







SIGHT





SMELL

ISD#9129



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- Outdoors/natural light
- Multiple animal experiences enclosures and

Some mechanical

Mountain lion area tan noises near

- Some animal present scents may be
- Bobcat enclosure scent, especially in can have strong the morning

May be in close

Low impact on this

Potential for close

Primarily indoors/

artificial lighting

with other visitors proximity indoors

proximity to other

guests

Sensory Guide™

Sensory Levels (1= Low Sensory Stimulation, 10= High Sensory Stimulation)

Wildlife Hospital & Conservation Center

TOUCH

TASTE

SOUND

SIGHT

Palm Desert, CA

ISD#9126





SMELL



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 May be able to undergoing procedures observe animals

> Light scent of cleaning solution/ disinfectants present