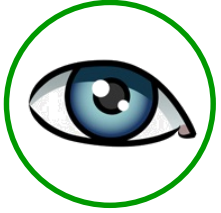




Visiting Stingray Bay

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 are going to visit Stingray Bay



Stingray Bay is on the Florida Boardwalk. We can get there by following the map and signs. At Stingray Bay we can touch the stingrays. Maybe we will even feed the stingrays.

When we get to Stingray Bay, we will walk through the gift shop to the stingray pool. If we have food or drinks, we will leave them outside.

In the gift shop we can get food to feed the stingrays. This costs extra money. Maybe we will feed the stingrays today. Maybe we will feed the stingrays another day.



Sometimes the stingrays are full and we can't feed them. That is okay. We will still get to see and touch them.

Touching the Stingrays



Stingrays splash when they swim. I might get wet. If I don't want to get wet, I can take a step back from the habitat.

If I want to touch the stingrays, I will use two fingers and only touch their wings. The signs will show me how to touch. I will be very gentle.



The stingrays might swim past us. I will wait patiently for a stingray to come to me. Sometimes I will wait a long time, and sometimes I will wait a short time.



When a stingray comes close to me, I will use my two fingers to gently touch on their wings. Their skin will feel soft and slimy. It will feel different than my skin.



When I am finished touching, I will go to the hand wash station. There might be a line. When it is my turn, I will wash my hands.





When it is time to leave, we will go to the door with the “exit” sign. Maybe we will look at the gift shop or maybe we will wait for a different day. We will go through the second gift shop exit and continue our visit of ZooTampa at Lowry Park.

Feeding the Stingrays

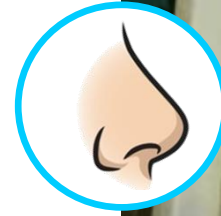


If the stingrays are hungry and I want to feed them, we can buy stingray food. After buying the stingray food, I will bring it over to the pool. Signs will show me the steps for feeding.

Just like us, stingrays like to eat more than one type of food. Somedays they will have fish, and other days they will have shrimp. The food will come in a tray.



Fish and shrimp have a strong smell. I can pinch my nose and breathe through my mouth if I do not like the smell.



Step 1

I will place the shrimp or fish between my fingers. I will then place my hand flat on the bottom of the pool.



Step 2



The stingrays will swim over my hand. I will feel them take the fish or shrimp. It might feel like a vacuum cleaner. I will stay still while the stingrays eat.





When I am finished feeding and touching, I will go to the hand wash station. There might be a line. When it is my turn, I will wash my hands.





When it is time to leave, we will go to the door with the “exit” sign. Maybe we will look at the gift shop or maybe we will wait for a different day. We will go through the second gift shop exit and continue our visit of ZooTampa at Lowry Park.

ZooTampa at Lowry Park has teamed up with the Center For Autism & Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida to provide support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism and related disabilities. Please utilize the resources provided to properly plan for your visit to ZooTampa at Lowry Park.

