



Aldabra Tortoise Encounter

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 the Aldabra Tortoise Encounter.



The Aldabra tortoise habitat is in Safari Africa. We can get there by following the map and signs.

Giant Tortoise Talk

Before we can go into the tortoise habitat, there will be a talk about giant tortoises. I will use my listening ears to learn about the animals. If I have questions, I can raise my hand after the talk.



When the talk is finished, an employee will be selling tickets. We will pay for a ticket if we did not purchase a ticket before we came.



When it is time to begin, we will go to the gate. An employee will check our name off and unlock the gate for us. I will follow the sidewalk back to the habitat entrance. I might see animals on the other side of the fence and want to go look, but I need to stay on the sidewalk.



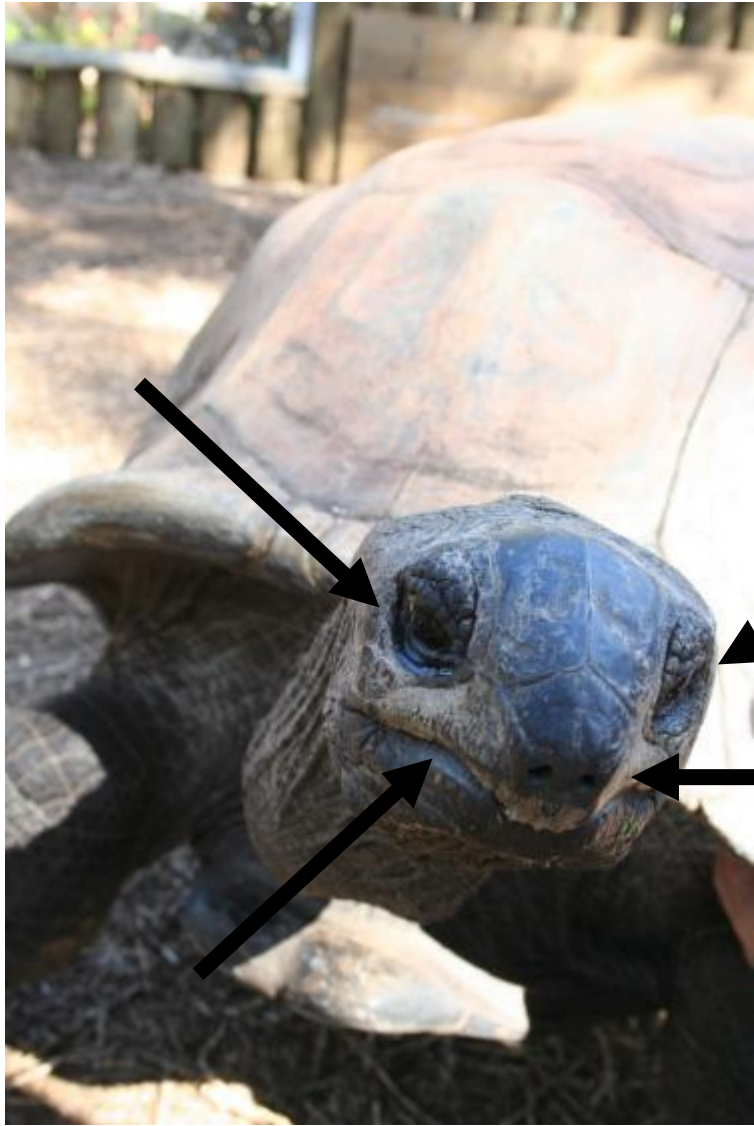
We will meet an animal care employee at the habitat entrance. Here, the animal care employee will go over the rules and answer any questions we have. Sometimes there is a line and we need to wait our turn. That's okay. We will all get a chance to meet the Aldabra tortoises.



The animal care employee 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 employee will be nearby to answer any questions I have.



I will NOT touch the
tortoise's
eyes,
nose,
or mouth.



Sometimes the tortoises are in the water, eating, or resting. I will NOT touch these tortoises. That's okay. 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 I am finished meeting the tortoises, I will exit the habitat and wash my hands. There is a handwashing station outside of the habitat.





We will then follow the sidewalk to the exit and continue our visit at 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.

