

Wellington Zoo & The Warehouse Zoofari FAQ

How do we apply?

Wellington Zoo will send out an email asking eligible schools to apply for funding. An application form will need to be completed by either a teacher or principal. You can apply for funding for a single class, a large group or the whole school. We kindly ask that if you are applying for multiple classes, this be completed on one application form. The application and notification process can take up to a month to complete. We will endeavour to keep you updated throughout the process.

Buses

Thanks to the support of The Warehouse, the cost of the buses is covered to and from the Zoo. A maximum of 50 people can be catered for, per bus. The organisation of the buses and payment for the buses will be handled by Wellington Zoo. We will work with you to ensure bus timings suit your travel needs.

Learning sessions

Funding for your visit includes learning session(s) with our Zoo Educators. Learning sessions run for about 45 minutes and are a great way to connect your students with the amazing animals at Wellington Zoo. Sessions have a maximum capacity of 35 students each, so you may require more than one session. The learning sessions take place in The Living Room and out in the Zoo. We have a number of learning session topics for you to choose from. The topic outlines can be found here: <https://wellingtonzoo.com/schools/learning-sessions/>

What if we want a topic that isn't listed?

We may be able to be flexible if there is something you would like to be covered that is not listed; however this will need to be in consultation with our Zoo Educators prior to your visit.

Exploration Time

When you are not in a learning session, you are free to explore the Zoo with your students. We recommend going to the animal talks as they are a great way to see our animals up close and to learn from the people who care for them daily.

We love creating whānau memories of a trip to the Zoo with kids and their caregivers. For Zoofari visits, we allow free entry for an extended number of accompanying caregivers; normally our adult to child ratio is 1:10 but for Zoofari we've extended it to 1:6. We do ask for your help keeping adult numbers limited to this ratio, as a maximum of 50 people can be accommodated on each bus in line with Health & Safety regulations. Beyond those numbers there are extra costs involved for the Zoo, and unfortunately any extra adults above this ratio of one child to six adults will be charged full adult entry.

Sleepovers

Sleepovers at Wellington Zoo involve spending the night with us and it's an opportunity to see the Zoo in a different light when it is closed to our visitors. As we have a finite pool of resources, this is not an opportunity that we can offer to every school. When you are asked to apply for funding, it will state whether or not the funding is for a Sleepover.

Zoo Sleepovers have a maximum capacity of 45 people. This includes teachers, teacher aides, parents or any additional adult helpers. A light supper of biscuits and hot drinks and breakfast will be provided, as well as mats for sleeping on. The Zoofari Sleepover experience is only available to eligible schools whose travel time exceeds 3 hours each way.

Cancellations or Postponements

We want to provide you and your students with the best experience possible and sometimes the weather can make this difficult. We are always ready and excited to host your Zoofari regardless of weather, however we understand if it is necessary to postpone. We kindly ask for as much notice as possible in these situations.

Wellington Zoo also understands that things other than weather can cause disruption in scheduling. Again, we ask for as much notice as possible. In both instances we will do our best to find an alternative date that suits both your school schedule and Wellington Zoo's schedule.

What if it rains during our visit?

We are an outdoor venue and there are limited spaces for shelter in wet weather. Please note that the majority of our education sessions take place outdoors. We recommend all students bring rain coats and some shelter can be found in the following areas - Wild Theatre, Kamalas, and The Barn at Meet the Locals He Tuku Aroha.

Pre, during and post visit resources

There is a resource booklet available full of fantastic activities to get your learners excited about your visit. This can be downloaded from our website. It also includes great 'during your visit' and 'follow up' activities.

Evaluation

We require each participating teacher to reflect on the students learning and experience at the Zoo by filling out an online feedback form after your Zoo visit. These will be sent via email and will only take 5 - 10 minutes to complete. This will help us evaluate our programming for annual reporting and improvement of sessions. We welcome any images or copies of work done by the children, inspired by their Zoofari experience.