

Welcome to Sensory Friendly ZooLights at the Phoenix Zoo!

If you bought your tickets online, you can keep going across the bridge to the turnstiles. If you don't have tickets yet, you can purchase them from the open booth right here at the curb or at reception window next to the turnstiles.



As you walk across the bridge, you'll see lots of lights around you and above you. You'll even see some in the water next to the bridge. These lights are all static or slow moving.





After the bridge you'll go up a very small hill and you'll stick to the left to go to the turnstiles to show your tickets or purchase tickets for the night.



To purchase tickets, you'll go to the reception window which is right next to the turnstiles. Look for the rope barrier to the far right, that's where you line up. The reception window is also one of the locations to check out a sensory bag if you'd like to borrow one for the evening.



If you have your tickets already, keep going toward the turnstiles and have them ready for the staff person to scan them. You may need to wait in line for a few minutes.



After you've had your tickets scanned and go through the metal turnstiles, you're in the Zoo and it's time to enjoy ZooLights!



The first thing you'll see is a tunnel of lights. If you like to be surrounded by bright lights, have fun walking through. If you don't like to be surrounded by bright lights, you can take a right just before the tunnel to skip it.



Now you're in the main plaza and you get to choose where you want to go first. The main plaza is where you'll find some restrooms and Jungle Java where warm drinks are for sale. Be sure to look for the big map of the event and take a photo with your phone. The map shows the locations of our sensory stations, if you'd like to use them. Also, at the Adventure Center you can check out a sensory bag if you'd like to borrow one for the night.





On the left side of the plaza is the entrance to the Arizona Trail. This trail has the least number of moving lights. To get to the trail you'll need to walk under some slow-moving lights that hang above you.





The Arizona Trail is a one-way loop so just follow the red arrows.





As you move along the trail you'll see lights above you, next to you and all around you on the ground. Some lights will move slowly but there are no fast-moving lights on this trail.





There are some areas where you aren't allowed to go during ZooLights. Those are marked off with red lights.



Most of the animals are in their bedrooms for the night, but sometimes at ZooLights you can see the javelina in their habitat.





Back at the main plaza, if you turn right, next to Jungle Java and walk the short path that has the carousel at the end of it, you'll be headed in the right direction to go to the other areas with lights.

The carousel is open if you'd like to take a ride. There is an extra fee for this experience. We've turned down the volume of the music for tonight but if you don't like loud music, it might be good to use headphones to block the sound or skip the carousel.





If you turn right at the carousel, you'll walk up a hill. On your left side there's an area with tables where there's a great view of the lights on the lake.



If you need some quiet time, look for the building with the big rhino painting on the side. That's where you'll find the quiet room. To get to the quiet room, take the ramp up to the building.





When you see the tiger exhibit you can either go left to walk along the Inner Tropics Trail or stay to the right to keep going up the hill to see the lights on the Outer Tropics Trail.



Outer Tropics Trail is where you'll find the animal show in the Doornbos Discovery Center at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. For the show you'll need to sit quietly for about 20 minutes while there are live animals and people on stage. The presenters speak into microphones which can sometimes seem loud, but we've tried to turn down the volume for tonight.



The Tropics Trail is a big loop so whichever way you go, you'll still get to see everything. There's also a restroom on this trail near the elephant exhibit.





Along the Tropics Trail there are moving lights. The lights blink to make it look like the animal shapes are moving.

There are also lights over top of you, on the ground and all around you.





The Tropics Trail is where you'll find Zooville. Be sure to watch out for grinchies! There's even an elf on the shelf hiding here somewhere.



Once you've finished the Tropics Trail, you have one more area to visit. You'll walk along the side of the lake where the zebras and flamingos are. Stop at the big tent to enjoy some activities with our friends from Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center and Special Olympics.





Walk past the zebras and flamingos and you'll find the three-story tall Christmas Tree.



Right next to the Christmas Tree is Crossroads Café where you can get some snacks if you're hungry. There are also restrooms here.





Also in this area are the camel rides. To ride a camel, you'll need to sit on a saddle for about five minutes. Camels have a strong odor. They are very friendly and enjoy meeting people. There is an extra fee to ride a camel.



Next to the camel rides is the entrance to the Wildlife Lanterns Cul-de-sac. There's no outlet here so when you get to the end you'll need to turn back and walk the same path again.





The Wildlife Lanterns are on both sides of the trail and are lit up with bright lights. Some of the lanterns slowly move as well.



There are also some additional lights along this trail, all around you including overhead.





Once you see the tiger van and the red string of lights, it's time to turn around and walk back to the camels again.

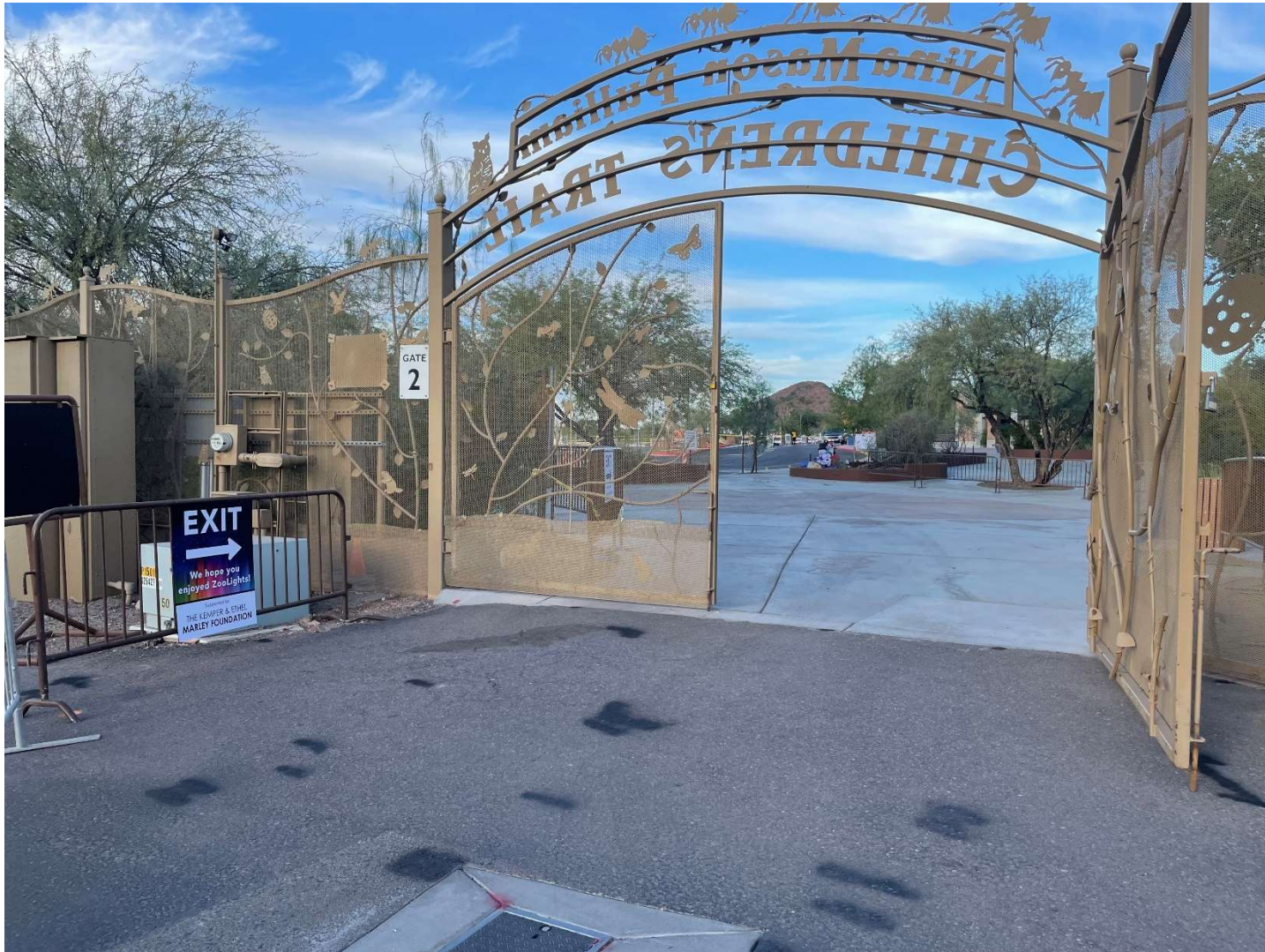


After you've seen all the lights and you're ready to leave, there are two main exits that you can use. The usual exit is back in the main plaza and through the Gift Shop.





You can also exit through the Nina Mason Pullium gate which is right next to the Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater where the animal show was, past the tigers.



If you find yourself in the main plaza and are nervous about exiting through the Gift Shop, you don't need to walk all the way to the other exit. Just let the staff at the turnstiles know and they'll open a gate for you next to the turnstiles.



Thank you for coming to ZooLights. We hope you have a wonderful visit!

If you bought your tickets online look out for an email from us with a link to a survey about your experience. We'd love to know how it went and if there's anything we can do to improve.