

Visiting the Zoo's Elephant Exhibit

National Zoo Social Narrative: Elephant Trails



Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute



There are many animals to visit at the **Zoo**.
Today, I am going to visit the elephant exhibit.



There are many places to see **Asian elephants** at the
National Zoo!



Our elephants have a big habitat which includes four **outdoor yards**, an **elephant exercise trek** and the **Elephant Community Center**.



Sometimes it can be hard to find the elephants because there are so many places for them to explore within their habitat.

If I can't find the elephants, I can ask a **volunteer** in a red shirt to help locate them during my Zoo visit!



One place I might see elephants today is the **Elephant Outpost**.
I can follow the **orange elephant footprints** to get to this
outdoor elephant viewing spot.



I may see **signs** that tell me how to be safe when visiting Elephant Outpost. These signs will help keep the animals and visitors safe.



At Elephant Outpost, there are different **interactive elements** that I can touch and explore to learn more about the animals.



There are some examples of different objects that researchers use to study elephants, like a **dart gun** and a big **elephant collar**. These objects are not real and cannot hurt me.



At certain time of day, I can watch an **elephant training demonstration** and hear zoo keepers talk about the elephants. It may be crowded at this demonstration, and may be loud. The keeper may talk through a microphone.



Sometimes, elephants are given access to the **elephant exercise trek**, where they can walk up an enclosed pathway. I can watch them from a distance as they walk up and down the hill. They will be safe, and so will I.



I may see big objects in the elephant habitats, like tires or barrels. These are elephant toys, called **enrichment**, which the elephants can play with. Big animals need big toys!



I may see or hear **water**. Elephants like to play with water, especially on hot days.



I may see people working in the elephant yards. They are **animal keepers**, helping to care for the Zoo's elephants. They are allowed to be in the yard, and know how to stay safe.



I may **not** see any elephants at Elephant Outpost– and that’s okay! Elephants are sometimes indoors, and sometimes in other parts of their home. I can walk up the hill to look for the elephants in the Elephant Community Center.



I will know I have at the **Elephant Community Center** when I see double doors and a sign that says “Elephant Community Center.”



When I walk in, I may see a **big exhibit** and a lot of **people** looking at the elephants. It may be loud and there may be a strong **smell**.



I may see or smell **elephant poop**. Asian elephants can poop up to 13 times each day! Keepers pick up poop several times a day.



While in the Elephant Community Center, animal keepers may open or close the big **sliding doors** to let elephants inside the Center or out into the yards. These doors may make a loud noise when opening and closing.



At the Elephant Community Center, there are different **signs and movable pieces** that I can touch and explore to learn more about the animals.



I may see **other people** looking at the elephants, or playing with some of the different interactive pieces of the exhibit.
I can play with the interactive pieces, too, if I want.

Panda Overlook



Bird House Bridge



If I want to keep watching elephants, I can walk outside and may see them from other places.



It can be fun to visit elephants in different places around the Zoo!