

Oregon Zoo's Annual Light Display is Bigger Than Ever

Early Bird discount available

A Northwest holiday tradition returns! Zoo Lights, presented by U.S. Bank, opens Nov. 24, showcasing dazzling life-size animal silhouettes, forests of lighted trees and rides on the light-bedecked zoo train. Tickets are on sale now with a 10% early-bird discount on purchases made before Oct. 18.

Tickets also are on sale for Brew Lights — a Zoo Lights experience just for the 21-and-over crowd, held Nov. 17–18. Guests can sample a selection of more than 100 local beers, seltzers and ciders from more than 50 Northwest vendors while enjoying live music and strolling among the millions of lights.

This year's Zoo Lights marks a return to the classic walk-through winter wonderland, a holiday tradition for more than 30 years pre-pandemic. In 2020, the zoo pivoted to a drive-through version — the only way it could host the event under state guidelines



Zoo Lights, presented by U.S. Bank, opens Nov. 24. Tickets are on sale now with a 10% early-bird discount on purchases made before Oct. 18. Photo courtesy of the Oregon Zoo.

that year — and made do with a combination of walk-through and drive-through nights over the following two years.

“We were so glad that we could keep this community tradition alive through the pandemic even

if it was a little bit different,” events director Mickey Webb said. “It was challenging since the drive-through route ties up large sections of our service road network. But we heard that it was a more comfortable choice for some

folks, and we’ll be making a special effort to accommodate people with different mobility and sensory-processing needs as we return to our classic holiday path.”

Wheelchairs and electric scooter rentals are available at the zoo

gift shop, Webb said, and the zoo has scheduled a special sensory-friendly Zoo Lights for Nov. 20. The event will feature the same stunning light displays, but the music will be softer and flashing lights will be adjusted. Calming rooms also will be available to accommodate children who need to take breaks.

Zoo Lights is a special event and is not included with regular daytime admission. Members receive 20% off regularly priced tickets and may also purchase tickets for a special Nov. 19 preview before the official Zoo Lights opening. All guests, including members must reserve tickets in advance via the zoo website. As part of Metro, the Oregon Zoo helps make greater Portland a great place to call home. Committed to conservation, the zoo acts globally on behalf of species from pikas to polar bears. Over the past 30 years, it has prevented extinctions, expanded populations, advanced conservation science and formed powerful communities to protect wildlife in the Northwest and around the world.

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