

MY TRIP TO FOTA WILDLIFE PARK



In association with:





This is a story about visiting Fota Wildlife Park. It is a very big place with many animals to see.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Pre-booking essential for entry (including for annual pass holders)

LEARN MORE



VISITING FOTA



MORE BENEFITS

Before I visit the Fota Wildlife Park, I can look at the website to find out what animals I'll be able to see there. I will also be able to see pictures of different areas in the park on the website and I can use the sound clips to practice listening to some sounds I might hear in the park before I go.



When I get to the Park, there may be a queue to get in and I may have to wait. I can bring some toys or books in my bag to have fun while I wait.

23 BLACK HOWLER MONKEY
Black Howler monkeys are amongst the largest of the new world monkeys. These monkeys are native to South and Central American forest and are famous for their loud howls.

24 WHITE FACED SAKI
Also known as the Pale-faced saki, the white-faced saki is a new world monkey that resides primarily in the tropical forests of South America.

25 BLACK & WHITE RUFFED LEMUR
Black & White Ruffed Lemurs are named because of white fur around their ears. A native of the island of Madagascar in the eastern rainforests.

30 DWILL
Dwills are among Africa's most endangered mammals and are listed by the IUCN as the highest conservation priority of all African primates.

31 GREY CHEEKED MANGABEY
Mangabey live in groups, called troops, of about 10 to 40 individuals in a variety of habitats in the forests of Central Africa.

32 HOLOWAY MONKEY
The howler gibbon is one of the three most endangered monkey species of Ghana, on the west coast of Africa. Howlers are an arboreal species found primarily in undisturbed, mature forests.

33 NARROW SEAL & GREY SEAL
The diet for the Narwhal Seal mainly consists of small fish. Other food items which they are commonly known to consume include cut herring, octopus, mussels and squid.

34 GREAT WHITE PELICAN
Great white pelicans are found in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. Able to fly for a whole day and night without stopping it breeds from south-west Europe through Asia and to Africa in swamps and shallow lakes.

35 WHITE-TAILED SEA EAGLE
Ireland is currently involved in a re-introduction programme for this species. To date 10 white-tailed sea eagles have been released.

36 RED SQUIRREL
Contrary to popular belief, squirrels do not hibernate, instead they store food to eat them through winter. The red squirrel is an arboreal omnivorous rodent.

37 BRAZILIAN TAPIR
A relative of the rhinoceros, the Brazilian tapir is one of four species of tapir. They measure around 2m in length. The tapir is thought to resemble a prehistoric horse.

38 CAPYBARA
The capybara is the largest rodent in the world. Their toes are webbed and their nostrils, eyes and ears are positioned high on its head.

39 RHEA
Domestic Rhea is a flightless bird and belongs to a group known as ratites. However, these are adaptations, reaching speeds of over 60 km/h it is one of two species in the rhea family both of which are confined to South America.

COMMON MOORHEN
The Moorhen is the most common of our three birds. It nests near water usually in emergent vegetation or on a floating raft.

LITTLE GREBE
The Little Grebe or Dab chick is the smallest of the Grebes. It is a common visitor of ponds and lakes throughout Ireland. They prefer to live near or among reeds, rushes and other dense vegetation which has earned them a reputation as a shy and secretive bird.

MALLARD
Mallards are among the most widespread of duck species in Ireland. Mallard duckslings can swim and feed for themselves as soon as they hatch, although they stay near the female for protection.

ROSEBREAST
The Rosebreast's distinctive plumage is easily recognised. It has been known to hibernate, but in vertical banks along streams and rivers.

OYSTERCATCHER
Oystercatchers are seen in large numbers in Ireland during winter months and are striking black and white with long bills with long bright red bills. Their bill is used to break open shells.

PIED WAGTAIL
A common resident throughout Ireland, the waded breeds in a wide variety of habitats, including urban areas but is largely absent from bogs and upland areas. The most distinctive feature is its wagging tail.

COMMON PHALAROP
First introduced from Asia in the 18th century. A game bird it is valued in large numbers and released into woodland to be hunted soon afterwards.

COMMON POUCHED
The Common Pouched is a medium-sized diving duck. It is a scarce summer visitor and widespread winter migrant - most commonly seen during the months of October to February.

DIVER
Resident along rocky coasts in the north and north-west of Ireland. The male's crest is built close to the sea and is lined with the selected oysters, plucked from the female's breast.

GREYLAG GOOSE
The Icelandic population winters in Scotland and Ireland, wintering mainly at coastal sites. These birds are known to winter in some major locations in Ireland with flock size often exceeding up to 1,000 individuals.

SNOW GOOSE
The Snow Goose also known as the Blue Goose is a North American species of geese. Snow geese fly in V-formation to reduce wind drag and out of collision.

BARNACLE GOOSE
The Barnacle goose is a visitor to our shores from Greenland, overwintering in Ireland between October and April.

RED BREASTED GOOSE
The Red Breasted Goose nests in the Tundra and is considered one of the rarest goose species in the world. It is easily distinguishable by its pattern of black, white and chestnut red.

1 LIMB TREES
This is a group of about 20 species of trees native throughout most of the temperate and subtropical world. Commonly called lime trees in the UK for this, they are not closely related to the lime that citrus lovers include lemon and lime. A genus was named by the British explorer of the Americas and an explorer after "Lambert" by way of the production of the ship which first set sail for the Americas.

2 ROSE
Rosa is a woody perennial. It can reach a height of 30m. The male tree can be up to 100 feet of a female tree of the same species in order for seeds to successfully pollinate the female flowers and produce the bright red berries that are most commonly eaten. Some male trees can live for 25 years, the typical lifespan is about 100 years.

3 YEW
All parts of the yew are poisonous, except for the old berries or "nuts". The male Yew trees produce cones but most commonly the female plants produce growing bright red and white berries containing one seed a piece from early September. Some Yew trees in Ireland are believed to be 1,000 years old.

4 SWAMP CYPRESS
This conifer is well suited to Ireland's climate and is a common sight in the wetlands of the South Eastern United States. It is also known as the Bald Cypress, if not correctly properly the Bishop of the Swamp Cypress is thought to be more than 1,000 years. The trees in the Park are the oldest and tallest in the British Isles.

5 TAMARISK
Regularly called "lamb tail" or "salt cedar". Tamarisk can grow in salty soil. The tree has the ability to absorb its roots salt from the tips of its leaves.

6 ASH
The common ash is Ireland's most common tall tree. It is a deciduous tree and after this has been cut down it is able to sprout and grow in being again.

7 NATIVE OAK
Native common oak (male oak) once covered the island, eastern and northern parts of Ireland. It can reach up to 40 metres in height.

8 HORN OAK
Horn oak or white oak is considered to be a "dry tree" - especially when planted in lowlands. It is considered a highly suitable tree for the planting of Ireland's coastline.

9 SCOTLAND WILLOW
Ireland has the perfect climate for growing willow into known as "Salix". In a natural level, willow bark has been used for its pain reducing qualities for at least 2,000 years. The compound from which the active ingredients is aspirin was first derived (salicylic acid), was found in the bark of a willow tree in 1763.

10 REDWOOD
Also known as the Coast Redwood or Big Tree, is the most famous of trees of the Redwood Collection could be traced from the young pine - typically between 100,000 years, though some can be over 2,000 years.

SENSORY MAP/GUIDE BOOK

FOTA

WILDLIFE PARK

Look for these symbols throughout the guide:

Sensory levels: Low, Medium, High

www.fotawildlife.ie

I can get a map to find out where my favourite animals are in the park. I can also use the map to find out about what kinds of senses (e.g, sounds, smells) I might encounter in different areas of the park.



When I get inside the main entrance - I can go to the toilets by the café. I might hear loud noises from the hand-driers or the coffee machines, but that's okay because I can wear my ear defenders.

If I have forgotten my ear defenders I can ask the staff on the gates for a pair of ear-buds along with the Sensory Map.



Beside the toilets there is a playground with sand pit.

There will be lots of others also having fun.



There is a train stop at the main entrance that helps people move around. I can get on and take a trip to the Lakeside. There may be lots of other people on the train and I may need to wait. The train might be noisy and bumpy, but that's okay because I can wear my ear defenders and bring a hand fidget/comforting toy with me to distract myself. If I forget my ear defenders then I can ask to borrow a set from the train conductor.



In the Park, I will see many different animals in their habitats, and can read about them on the information board.



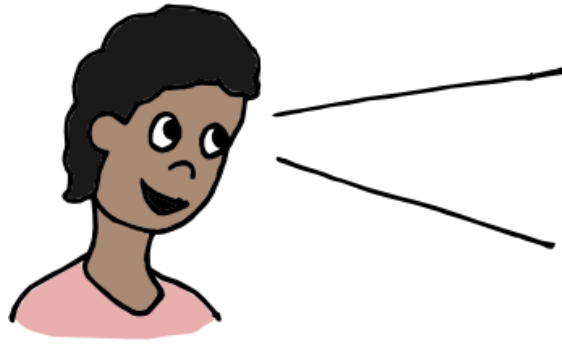
Some animals may stay very far away.



Some animals may come very close, but that's okay, because there will be Park Wardens nearby to keep me safe.



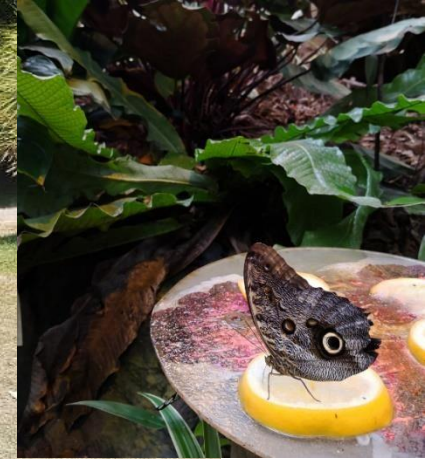
There are many animals that are not in their own habitats. These animals sleep and live in the fields. I might see a kangaroo hop out in front of me, or I might see a Lemur walk past.



I will only look and watch. I will not feed or chase the animals because they might be scared of me.



While I'm in the Asian Sanctuary I might be able to smell the food market which is beside the activities tent. I can have a snack here and also visit to the toilets.



I can visit the Tropical House by the lakeside. It is very warm inside and there are butterflies in the air. I can see the snakes, frogs and tortoises in their habitats.



In the Tropical House I can also see fish in the tanks that remind me of Finding Nemo! There may be lots of people standing or walking near me as I look at the interesting animals.



Many different birds and ducks live at the Lake. My parents/guardians can help me buy some duck food to feed to the birds in the Lake.



There is a playground outside the restaurant by the lake, there are lots of other children playing there.



There is a restaurant at the lakeside and a lot of people choose to eat burgers and chips here, I can also choose a sandwich and a drink. I will have to wait to get my food. I can then sit at a table to eat.

There is a toilet there also.



There is a train stop at the Lake. I can get on and take a trip back to the main entrance. There may be lots of other people on the train and a long queue to get on.



Some animals, like the monkeys, live on islands in lakes. I can walk around and stop at each island, and read more about the animals on the information board.



Rangers and other staff may drive past as they go about their work during my visit.



Before I leave I can visit the gift shop. There are lots of different toys and gifts on sale there. I have to wait in line to purchase my items – this can take a little time and the shop can be noisy and crowded.