
I am going to visit
WILD LIGHTS
at the
Detroit ZOO

Wild Lights is a holiday lights event held on select evenings from November to January, and it requires a separate ticket to enter.

After dark, the Zoo is transformed by millions of twinkling lights, music and holiday cheer. I can explore it all at my own pace.



Everything at *Wild Lights* is optional.

I can choose what sounds fun to me and skip the rest.





Wild Lights can be busy and exciting, with lots of lights, music and people. It may feel loud or crowded in some places. If it feels overwhelming, I can let someone in my group know.

I can also borrow a sensory bag during my visit. Sensory bags are available at Customer Care and the Security Office on a first-come, first-served basis.





It will be dark outside, and the Zoo might look different than it does during the day. Some lights may flash, change colors or move to the music.

If a display feels overwhelming, I can look away, cover my eyes or move to another area. I can also borrow strobe glasses (to help with flashing lights) from Customer Care or the Security Office.





Wild Lights takes place during the winter, so it can be very chilly and may even snow. I will bundle up in warm layers that I can take off if I get hot while walking around.

I may see fire pits and propane heaters around the Zoo to warm up. Open fire can be hot, so I will be careful. The air near heaters may feel dry. If it is too much, I can step back or move to a different spot.





While I cannot see all of the animals at the Zoo during *Wild Lights*, select habitats will be open along the route. That includes the Edward Mardigian Sr. River Otter Habitat and the Jane and Frank Warchol Beaver Habitat.

Wild Lights is a great chance to see nocturnal animals like the beavers.





Near the beginning of the route, I might see the Field of Light.

The colorful lights dance in time with holiday music. I can stop to watch for a while or keep moving.





I may pass through the Tunnel of Light. String lights will surround me on every side. I will not touch any of the lights.

The tunnel may feel bright and immersive. I can move around if I prefer.





Nearby, I can wander through Toyland, where I will see larger-than-life illuminated toys.

I can take photos in front of these displays. Some, I may even be able to take photos from inside.





I may come across the Wishing Tree. It is an interactive tree that talks and listens to my holiday wishes.

I can stop to make a wish if I want.



Inside Fred and Barbara Erb Discovery Trails, I might find glowing swings and light-up teeter-totters. I can play on these if I would like.

I can wait my turn or come back if there is a line.

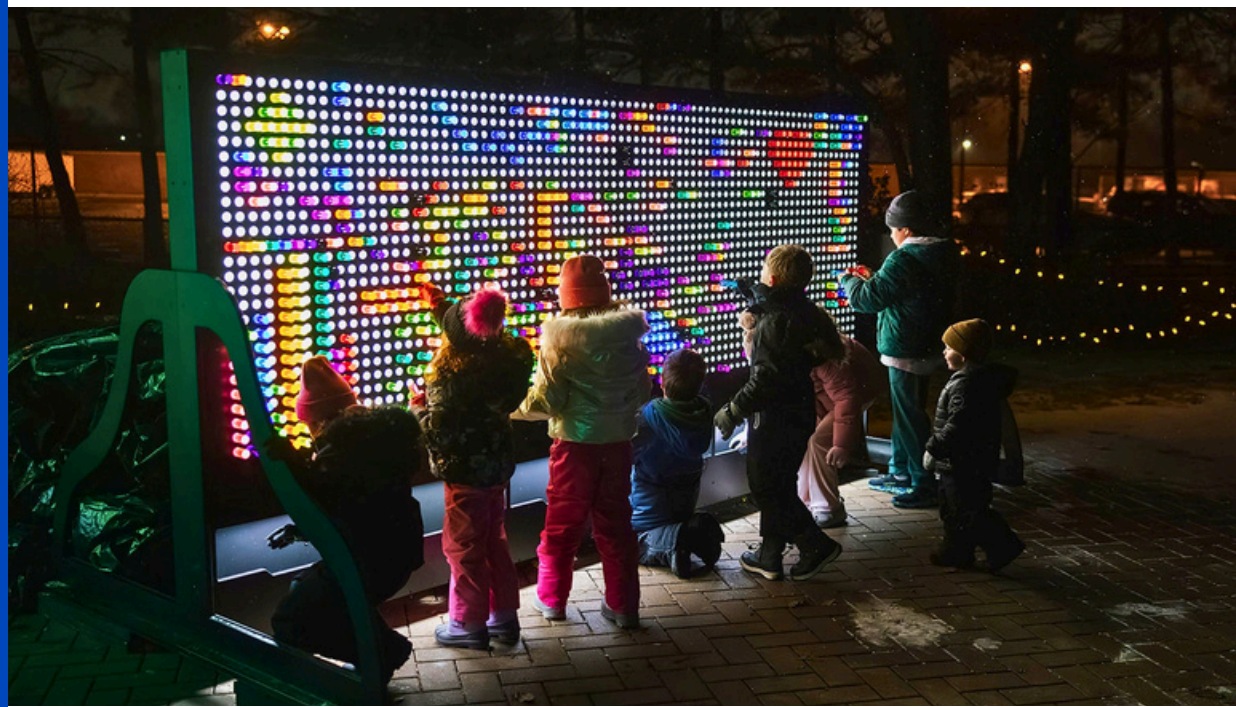




Nearby, I might find the Giant Light Bright, which looks like the pegboard toy, but much bigger.

When I am finished, I will leave the pegs behind so the next guest can enjoy it, too. If others are waiting, I can take a turn and come back later.





I may see large, glowing animal sculptures along the route near Rackham Memorial Fountain. These are great spots to stop for photos.

I can look at these displays, but I should not touch them.





At the Ford Education Center, I might find an art exhibition where I can color a butterfly and watch it come alive on a screen. The screen is big, but it does not make any sounds.

I can also touch a felt wall with felt butterflies, read books in the reading nook and explore all the colors of the color wheel with other hands-on activities.





I might also find Stepping Tones in the Events Pavilion. This is an illuminated floor that plays music when I step on it.

The music could feel loud. If I want to, I can dance, or I can watch from the side.





I may see Santa and Mrs. Claus on select nights of *Wild Lights*. There may be a line. If I want to say hello, I can do whatever makes me most comfortable, whether that is sitting on Santa's lap for a photo or standing beside them.

People celebrate this time of year in many different ways, and everyone is welcome.





I can buy food and drinks, like a hot cocoa souvenir cup with refills.

Warm food and drinks can be very hot, so I will take small sips and be careful.





There are extra activities I can add for an additional cost, such as the carousel, the 4D Theater, Wild Explorer Virtual Reality or getting my caricature drawn. I can also purchase souvenir items like cocoa cups or light-up lanyards.

I do not need to add any of these extras to have a great time.





The 4D Theater is an indoor experience, so it is a good opportunity to warm up. It may have wind, snow effects, rumbling seats and loud sounds.

Wild Explorer Virtual Reality uses a headset that goes over my eyes. If either feels like too much, I can take a break.





If I ride the carousel, I will make sure to dress warmly as the spinning could make me feel colder.

I can also get my caricature drawn by an artist. I will have to sit still for a few minutes if I decide to do this.

With so many experiences, I can choose the activities that sound the most fun to me.





If my group agrees, I can buy a Glow-with-the-Show lanyard at checkout or at glow stands in the Zoo. The lanyard lights up in sync with music from the Glow Zones along the route.

If flashing lights make me feel uncomfortable, I can decide whether the lanyard is right for me.





As I continue to move around the Zoo, I might say hello to friendly characters dressed in holiday gear.

I can wave from a distance if I would rather not meet a character.



The Zoo has an adults-only lounge called The Igloo. It is for guests who are 21 and older, and it requires an additional purchase to enter.

The Igloo serves alcoholic beverages. If I am 21 or older, I can choose to go inside, but I do not have to.





While I am enjoying the lights, I may see donation boxes for local causes around the Zoo.

If I would like to bring something, I can check the Zoo website beforehand to see what is being collected.





Along the way, I can take breaks whenever I need them. If I want to warm up, I can look for a heated place to rest, or I can drink something warm.

Moving through the lights can take a while, and I can go at my own pace.





Wild Lights was so much fun, and I hope to come back next year!




Thank you for visiting
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