



Bronx Zoo HOLIDAY LIGHTS

We're going to the Bronx Zoo!

A social story about visiting Holiday Lights.

Select Dates

November 21, 2025 - January 4, 2026

bronxzoo.com/holiday-lights



Any night is a great night for Holiday Lights!

Sensory-Friendly Night: December 4, 2025

You can expect all the great Holiday Lights experiences, with some modification to make it more sensory inclusive.



Bronx Zoo Holiday Lights will be outside.

I will need to wear warm clothes.

It will be cold at the zoo.



When I get to the zoo, I will wait in line
until it is my turn to go in.
I will stay with my group when I am in line.



There will be a lot of things to look at.
We should remember to not touch the lights or
lanterns.



There will be music playing.

If any of the lights or noise bothers or upsets me,
I can let my group know and move
to another area.



If I need a break from the event, I can stop at the Quiet Area next to the Sea Lion Pool on Astor Court.

This indoor room has dim lights and no music. I can rest for a bit and then go out to see more lights.



If I think the noises at Holiday Lights might be hard for me, I can borrow a KultureCity Sensory Bag from the zoo. The bags can be checked out at Guest Relations, next to the Sea Lion Pool.

Sensory Bags have noise-reducing headphones and fidget tools that can help me feel calm. We can use the bag during the event, and return it before we leave the zoo so other people can use it the next day.

(If I visit on Dec. 4, I can check out a Sensory Bag at the zoo entrance.)



There may be a lot of people at the zoo, and I might need to wait my turn to see the lights up close.

I should stay with my group and let them know if I need space away from the crowd.



We will see many light sculptures and lanterns in the shape of animals. But we will not see any of the real zoo animals at night.

All animal exhibits are closed at 4 o'clock, to let the animals get a full night's rest.

I may miss them, but I know this is best for the animals.



It might be dark in some places.
I will be sure to stay with my group.
I can let them know if I need help
in these dark areas.



There is an animated light show on Astor Court, with music and moving light displays. The show is about 10 minutes long.

It is bright and exciting. I will let my group know if I need a break or want to move away from this show.

If it is too bright or loud, I can leave that area and go to another section of the event.



In one tent, we will see ice sculptures and may see artists using loud tools to carve the ice.

I will let someone from my group know if I need to move away from this area.

(On Dec. 4, they will use smaller tools. These still make some noise but not as loud.)



There is a Holiday Train for kids that
we can ride in.

It is a separate ticket, so if my group wants to ride
I will need to wait in line until it is my turn.

The train goes in a circle and brings us back
to where we started the ride.

It is okay if I don't want to ride the train.
There is a lot more to see and do.



There are puppets and costume characters to meet. Some have lights on their costumes.

I can wave hello or take a picture of them.

If I don't feel like meeting these people,
I can let my group know and we can
move to another area.



There is a lot to see and do at Bronx Zoo
Holiday Lights event.

We may not get to see all of the light displays
before it is time to leave. That's okay.

We can come back before January 5th
to see more.



Bronx Zoo Holiday Lights
is a great way to celebrate the season!