

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Brevard Zoo Opening Newly Expanded Expedition Africa Area**

MELBOURNE, Fla., Oct. 28, 2024 — New adventures are coming to Brevard Zoo with the opening of an expanded Expedition Africa area – including the opening of the new permanent habitat for the Zoo’s three adult male lions.

This expansion includes the completion of the area’s boardwalk “loop,” offering new views of its iconic animals like the Southern white rhinos, ring-tailed lemurs, and more.

The opening of our permanent lion habitat is the major addition to the loop. The Zoo’s lion trio, brothers Chobe, Karoo and Ruaha, will move from their temporary Wild Florida habitat to their expansive new space in Expedition Africa. This spacious, open-air 15,150-square-foot habitat will feature lush vegetation, multilevel climbing platforms, coquina boulders, a temperature-controlled “chill pad” and a training station to encourage our lions to express their full range of natural behaviors and thrive.

This new habitat will more than double their previous one in size and give our lions endless opportunities to explore. The cooling rocks will have a system of water running through them that the lions can lay on as they wish to beat the heat on those hot Florida days.

Lions won’t be the only new special animal experience guests will be able to enjoy now, however. A new Okapi Encounter will give visitors an unforgettable experience with one of the animal kingdom’s most elusive creatures! Guests will be able to feed our okapi resident, George, and even pet him – contingent on George’s choice to participate. Tickets

are on sale now for this daily encounter, which will start Nov. 9: [BrevardZoo.org/Okapi-Encounter](https://www.brevardzoo.org/Okapi-Encounter).

Guests will also be able to enjoy several special activities and events associated with this opening day:

- The Lion's Journey Scavenger Hunt lets guests explore the world from a lion's perspective with interactive activities and fun challenges in this self-paced safari throughout the Zoo. This will be open on weekends and select holidays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. starting Nov. 16. This experience is \$5 for up to five people per group. Guests can purchase additional patches for \$3.
- Breakfast with the Big Cats is a family-friendly breakfast that allows guests to create enrichment for Brevard Zoo's big cats and create a piece of unique lion pawprint art to take home. This breakfast will be held Nov. 16, 23 and 30 from 9-10:30 a.m. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://brevardzoo.org/education/family-adult-programming/#breakfastlions>. For members, tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for children. For nonmembers, tickets are \$35 for adults and \$30 for children.
- Sunrise on the Savannah is an adults-only breakfast that lets guests 18+ enjoy a morning coffee while getting a behind-the-scenes look at the care for our lions. This event will be held Nov. 24 and Dec. 7 from 8-10 a.m. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://brevardzoo.org/education/family-adult-programming/#adults>. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$40 for nonmembers.

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*Brevard Zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 170 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at [www.brevardzoo.org](http://www.brevardzoo.org).*