

Keeping in Touch: Zoos & Wildlife Parks

Our children have different interests. Now more than ever, it is important that we keep in touch with those interests or why not investigate a new interest, one example would be zoos.

So how can my children keep in touch with zoos from their own home?

The following will give you examples of how to keep your child engaged with their interest or to give your child exposure to wildlife parks/zoos in Ireland.

Dublin Zoo

Interesting facts:

- Dublin Zoo is located in Phoenix Park, Dublin
- It was established in 1830 by Decimus Burton, it opened in 1831
- Dublin Zoo puts conservation into action every day. Why not check out the website to see what conservation projects the zoo is involved in!
- The population of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians have, on average, dropped by 60% in just 40 years

Dublin Zoo want to continue to deliver fun and educational experiences to the people in Ireland and around the world.

The Zoo offers educational activities that range from workbooks (which include colouring-in) to word searches. Check it out at www.dublinzoo.ie

Why not check out the zoo's *virtual tours*. These virtual tours open the gates of the zoo so you can take a tour around the zoo to see your favourite animals at the comfort of your own home.

If you miss your trip to the Zoo, why not try out the zoo's *webcams*. Catch a glimpse of the giraffes and rhinos or even get a birds-eye view of the penguins.



Fota Wildlife Park

Some interesting facts:

- Fota Wildlife Park is a 100-acre wildlife park located on Fota Island, near Carrigtwohill, County Cork, Ireland
- It opened in 1983
- Fota Wildlife Park is an independently funded, not-for-profit charity that is one of the leading tourism, wildlife and conservation attractions in Ireland
- The park had an attendance of 455,559 visitors in 2017, making it the eleventh most popular paid attraction in Ireland for that year
- The park is home to nearly 30 mammal and 50 bird species. Some of the animals roam freely with the visitors, such as the ring-tailed lemurs and wallabies, while larger animals, including the giraffe and bison, live in paddocks with barriers that are intended to be unobtrusive for visitors to view the animals in a more natural environment. Fota Wildlife Park also has red pandas, tapirs, siamang gibbons and other types of animals

Each week, Fota Wildlife Park release a themed workbook for children. It can be found by accessing www.fotawildlife.ie and click on 'Latest News'.

