



Wedding Packet

Engagements | Ceremonies | Reception Venues

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in hosting your wedding at Blank Park Zoo. We offer a variety of spaces and activities to make your special day truly unique. Invite animals to be up close and personal with your guests, and enjoy reduced admission to Iowa's wildest adventure.

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Wedding Amenities

- Rental packages include setup and tear down of tables and chairs
- Complimentary parking, conveniently located near venue
- Use of Zoo grounds for pictures
- Access to groom and bridal suites
- A/V packages and speaker systems
- Coat racks
- Experienced event staff onsite throughout duration of contracted time
- Wedding arch and platform included in Pavilion rental
- Linens are available upon request
- **Zoo members and corporate partners receive 10% off the rental cost. A 20% discount is applied to the rehearsal dinner of full rentals.**

Rental Times

- **Ceremony Only** - Five hours (One hour ceremony rehearsal available day prior)
- **Reception Only** - Seven hours
- **Full Wedding** - Twelve hours (11 a.m. to 11 p.m., one hour ceremony rehearsal available day prior)
- After hours, animals go in 30 minutes before sunset. Indoor exhibits close at 8:00 p.m.

P: 515-974-2635 E: SALES@BLANKPARKZOO.COM | 7401 SW 9TH STREET, DES MOINES, IOWA 50315 | WWW.BLANKPARKZOO.COM



MAX 200 GUESTS

Ceremony Packages

Ceremony only rentals are five hour contracts. Rental spaces include one indoor and two outdoor pavilions to gather your guests. **Zoo members receive 10% off rentals.**

DISCOVERY CENTER | \$1,200

This indoor space overlooks the Discovery Center's free-roaming aviary and botanical gardens, accommodating up to 200 guests ceremony style. Indoor exhibits are available as an after hour add on, with the exhibits closing at 8:00 p.m.



AFRICA PAVILION | \$1,000

Overlooking Iowa's version of the African savanna's iconic animals, this outdoor, covered pavilion offers sweeping views of the Jamaa Kwa Africa exhibits. The Africa Pavilion seats up to 50 guests comfortably.



PAVILION | \$1,200

This covered, outdoor space is a beautiful location conveniently located near the Zoo's entrance and exit. With wedding arch and platform included in the rental, this pavilion comfortably sits up to 200 guests.



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MAX 300 GUESTS

Reception Packages

Reception only rentals are seven hour contracts. Cocktail hour is included in both premium and deluxe packages. Cocktail hour locations include, but are not limited to the sea lion deck, Africa Pavilion and admissions lobby. **Zoo members receive 10% off rentals.**

Small Premium Reception | \$4,500

Dinner and dancing in the location of your choice, excluding the Holmes Foster Event Center. Use of outdoor and indoor exhibits exclusively for your guests at no additional cost.

This package is only available between the months of April - October.

Holmes Foster Premium Reception | \$5,500

Dinner and dancing in the Holmes Foster Event Center. Use of outdoor and indoor exhibits exclusively for your guests at no additional cost.

This package is only available between the months of April - October.

Animals will be off exhibit 30 minutes before sunset. Contact coordinator for sundown times. Indoor exhibits may remain open until 8:00 p.m. The security charge is \$35 per hour/per guard. One security guard will be required for each 250 guests.

Small Deluxe Reception | \$3,000

Dinner and dancing in the location of your choice, excluding the Holmes Foster Event Center. Use of indoor exhibits open exclusively for your guests at no additional cost.

This package is available year round, with animal availability dependent on the time of year. Additional cost for select exhibits. See details below.

Holmes Foster Deluxe Reception | \$4,000

Dinner and dancing in the Holmes Foster Event Center.

This package is available year round, with animal availability dependent on the time of year. Additional cost for select exhibits. See details below.

Additional cost for select exhibits:

- Center of the Zoo Exhibits - \$250/hour
- Jamaa Kwa Africa Exhibits - \$250/hour
- Australia and Kids Kingdom - \$250/hour
- Indoor Exhibits - \$250/hour

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MAX 300 GUESTS

Full Wedding Packages

Each full wedding package includes a ceremony, cocktail hour and reception space. Rentals are twelve hour contracts. **Zoo members receive 10% off rentals.**

Full Premium Package | \$5,000

Use up to three unique venue locations, excluding the Holmes Foster Event Center, for a ceremony, cocktail hour and reception for up to 160 guests.

Use of outdoor and indoor exhibits exclusively for your guests at no additional cost.



Holmes Foster Premium | \$6,000

Use up to two unique venue locations for a ceremony, cocktail hour and reception in the Holmes Foster Event Center.

Use of outdoor and indoor exhibits exclusively for your guests at no additional cost.

Full Deluxe Package | \$3,500

Use up to three unique venue locations, excluding the Holmes Foster Event Center, for a ceremony, cocktail hour and reception for up to 160 guests.

Use of indoor exhibits exclusively for your guests at no additional cost. Additional cost for select outdoor exhibits. See details below.



Holmes Foster Deluxe | \$4,500

Use up to two unique venue locations for a ceremony, cocktail hour and reception in the Holmes Foster Event Center.

This package is available year round, with animal availability dependent on the time of year. Additional cost for select exhibits. See details below.

Additional cost for select exhibits:

Center of the Zoo Exhibits - \$250/hour
Jamaa Kwa Africa Exhibits - \$250/hour
Australia and Kids Kingdom - \$250/hour
Indoor Exhibits - \$250/hour

Animals will be off exhibit 30 minutes before sunset. Contact coordinator for sundown times. Indoor exhibits may remain open until 8:00 p.m. The security charge is \$35 per hour/per guard. One security guard will be required for each 250 guests.

Wedding FAQs

Is guest event setup and clean up time included?

Yes, the facilities are available during the times listed in the contract for event setup and clean up of the event. If the event lasts longer than the stated time extra fees will apply.

Is admission included in my rental fee?

As long as your ceremony and reception begin after the Zoo has closed to the public, then there will be no additional admission fees for your guests. If your guests would like to tour the Zoo during normal business hours, then they will pay a reduced rate for admission and entrance to all exhibits.

How long are your wedding timeslots?

Ceremony only events are a five hour contract. Reception only events are a seven hour contract. Ceremony and reception events are a twelve hour contract. If your event requires additional hours or time frame adjustments, please let your event coordinator know.

Are extra hours available for events?

Yes. Additional hours are available upon request and availability. Additional costs apply.

Do all rentals include tables and chairs?

Yes, all rentals include setup of tables and chairs.

Can I bring my own linens? Or do you or the caterer provide them?

Our preferred caterer provides either black or white linens at no charge. If you would like different colors or sizes, you are welcome to work through an outside vendor.

Is there a deposit required to reserve a room?

A non-refundable deposit (half of the rental fee) is required at the signing of the contract.

What happens if we have to cancel our event?

Should you cancel the event more than one year prior to the scheduled event date, a refund of 50% of the paid rental will be given. Should you cancel the event less than one year prior to the scheduled event, no rental refund will be given.

Can we reschedule our event?

Please contact our rental event coordinators to help you reschedule.

Can we decorate the room for our event?

Yes, with approval from your event coordinator. A licensed florist or wholesaler must provide the floral arrangements. Flowers and plants may not be brought in from home gardens or farmers markets. Balloons, drones, confetti, glitter, straws, swizzle sticks, silly string, fireworks, plastic stirrers, rice, birdseed, or bubbles are not allowed on Zoo grounds. We also do not permit the use of nails, hooks, tacks, adhesive hooks, tape or screws on the walls of the indoors facilities; we do not permit the use of nails, tacks, or staples to be used anywhere within the outdoor facilities.

Do I need to bring my own audio visual equipment?

Blank Park Zoo offers various audio/visual equipment for your use. Please discuss further details with your event coordinator.

Can we have a band or DJ?

Yes, you may have music at your event. For the safety of the animals, your event coordinator will control music levels. We do not allow fog or bubble machines, strobe, laser, or cop lights in the exhibits to provide the additional safety for our animals.

Can I have a rehearsal the day before my wedding?

Please discuss rehearsal time with your event coordinator. Rehearsals are set for one hour and depend on the calendar of events for the week. The Zoo also features rooms for your rehearsal dinner. For an additional fee your event coordinator will be happy to discuss a personalized opportunity.

Are there bridal and groom suites?

We have two "multi-purpose" rooms, which serve as a bridal and/or groom suite. Let your event coordinator know if you would like to include the bridal and/or groom suite in your contract at no extra cost.

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Wedding FAQs

Continued

Are my guests allowed to smoke on the grounds?

For the health and safety of our animals, we do not allow smoking anywhere on our property. The zoo is privately owned and prohibits smoking, vaping, chewing, or any consumption of tobacco products and all illegal drugs on zoo grounds as determined by state law.

What is your rain policy?

If your event is due to take place outside we offer our indoor facility for 25% of the specified rental space in case of an unwanted weather emergency. The offer is optional and dependent on space availability.

Is there a security charge?

Blank Park Zoo requires the use of a security guard at any event dispensing alcoholic beverages or any event using the grounds outside normal business hours. The security charge is \$35 per hour/per guard. One security guard will be required for each 250 guests.

Can we bring our own alcohol or baked goods?

No. All alcoholic beverages consumed on the premises must be provided by our exclusive caterer in accordance with the Iowa Liquor and Beer Control Act. Baked goods must be purchased through a certified bakery.

Will the animals be out for my entire event?

Animals go in 30 minutes before sunset, so depending on your event timeline and the time of year, the animals may or may not be out for the entire duration of your event. Contact your event coordinator for more information. Indoor and outdoor exhibits are included in the premium package. Select animal exhibits may be added to the Deluxe Wedding Package for an additional fee. Please inquire with Event Coordinator for further information. Indoor exhibits are open until 8:00pm year round upon request.

Can I view the animals if my wedding is during the winter months?

Indoor rhino, giraffe, Aldabra tortoises, penguins, and the Discovery Center exhibits are available in the winter months, when the remainder of the zoo's animal enclosures cannot be available due to weather conditions. Additional exhibits are subject to change and limited options may apply. Contact your event coordinator for details.



For more information on rental packages call **515.974.2635** or email sales@blankparkzoo.org.





EVENTS RENTAL PACKET



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