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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Launches “Close Encounters of the Wild Kind”

New Experience Offers Visitors Rare Behind-the-Scenes Access and Up-Close Animal Interactions

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens is proud to introduce a first-of-its-kind experience: *Close Encounters of the Wild Kind*—a unique opportunity for guests to meet some of the Zoo’s most critically endangered animals up close, feed them, and learn directly from their expert caretakers.

This immersive behind-the-scenes tour allows visitors to step into the hidden world of wildlife and explore exclusive areas not typically open to the public. Accompanied by a knowledgeable zookeeper, guests will discover how animals are cared for and gain insight into the Zoo’s vital conservation efforts.

“We’re always looking for new ways to connect people with wildlife, and *Close Encounters of the Wild Kind* does just that,” said Joe Montisano, Director of the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens. “It’s not just about seeing animals—it’s about stepping into their world, learning from the experts who care for them, and understanding the conservation work that helps protect them. It’s an unforgettable experience we’re proud to share with our community.”

Guests can currently choose from three unique encounters:

- Pronghorn Experience
- Greater Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros Encounter
- Penguin Encounter

A fourth experience featuring the Galapagos Tortoise will be available soon.

Tickets for *Close Encounters of the Wild Kind* are \$40 per person and can be purchased individually or as part of a group tour. General admission is not included in the encounter price.

Tickets for the animal encounters can be booked on the El Paso Zoo website www.ElPasoZoo.org.

About the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens stretch across 35-acres and house animals representing over 220 species, including critically endangered species. Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the El Paso Zoo celebrates the value of animals and natural resources. It creates opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature. To learn more, visit www.ElPasoZoo.org.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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