



PRESS RELEASE

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“LOVE ON THE WILD SIDE” VALENTINE’S DAY “ADULTS ONLY” ROMANTIC TOUR OF SANTA BARBARA ZOO

- Two Dates: Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14 & Sunday, Feb. 15
- Animal Courtship and Mating Practices Revealed
- Tours Includes Champagne and Refreshments
- Advance Registration Required, Space Limited

Santa Barbara, February 3, 2009 – How different are the mating practices of humans from those in the animal kingdom? “Love on the Wild Side,” the Santa Barbara Zoo’s popular Valentine’s Day tour for couples, explores courtship and mating (translation: sexual) practices of animals at the Santa Barbara Zoo. Tour participants are asked to leave their inhibitions at the door, as they will participate in activities with their partners to heighten their senses. For example, could you find your spouse in a crowd by the smell of their pheromones? This tour makes for a lively, enlightening and romantic evening topped by a champagne toast and light repast of sensuous foods. Due to popular demand, two “Love on the Wild Side” tours will be held this year: on Valentine’s Day night, Saturday, February 14 and a brunch session on Sunday, February 15.

“Love on the Wild Side” is \$70 per couple; \$60 per couple for Zoo members. Space is limited and open only to those 18 and older. Advance registration is required. Contact the Education Department at (805) 962-5339 ext. 151, email: sdenbok@sbzoo.org, or visit www.sbzoo.org for more information.

Due to the subject matter, this tour is only open to adults and is intended for couples. No children are allowed. The meeting place and time will be announced to participants once they register. No walk-up registration. Media Advisory to follow with Photo Opportunity details.

“Love on the Wild Side”

As the tour winds through the Zoo, the tour leader will describe the ways various animals find mates and breed. It will be educational, yet sensual, involving all the senses. The evening concludes with a champagne toast on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, East Beach, and beyond, where a buffet of sensuous foods will be served.

Dancing, singing, caressing and some other surprising rituals are all parts of love at the Zoo. Participants will feel the love while hearing the calls of white-handed gibbons and smelling the dusky scent of black-footed cats. They’ll discover how snow leopards get to “know” one another and be shocked out how many times a male African lion can breed in one day. Find out who is Casanova of the reptile world and which African bird seals its mate in a hollow tree until her eggs are hatched. Which animals are faithful to their mates and which ones are not? All this and more will be revealed in a humorous, lively fashion.

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The Santa Barbara Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). It is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$11 for adults, \$8 for children 2-12 and seniors 60+, and children under 2 are free. Parking is \$4.

AZA zoos are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great visitor experience, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and is the public’s link to helping animals in their native habitats.

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