



POINT DEFIANCE

ZOO

& AQUARIUM

Metro Parks Tacoma

*Let's go to
the Zoo!*





Planning a trip to the zoo is fun. There are some things I need to do to prepare.

I will wear comfortable clothing and shoes for walking long distances. I will wear a jacket if it is raining.



I can bring food and water for when I get hungry and thirsty. We can also buy snacks and drinks at the zoo if my adult decides to.



Each person going to the zoo needs a ticket. We can buy tickets from our computer at home and skip the lines. Or we can purchase tickets at the booths when we get to the zoo. We might need to wait in line for a few minutes until it's our turn. This is okay.



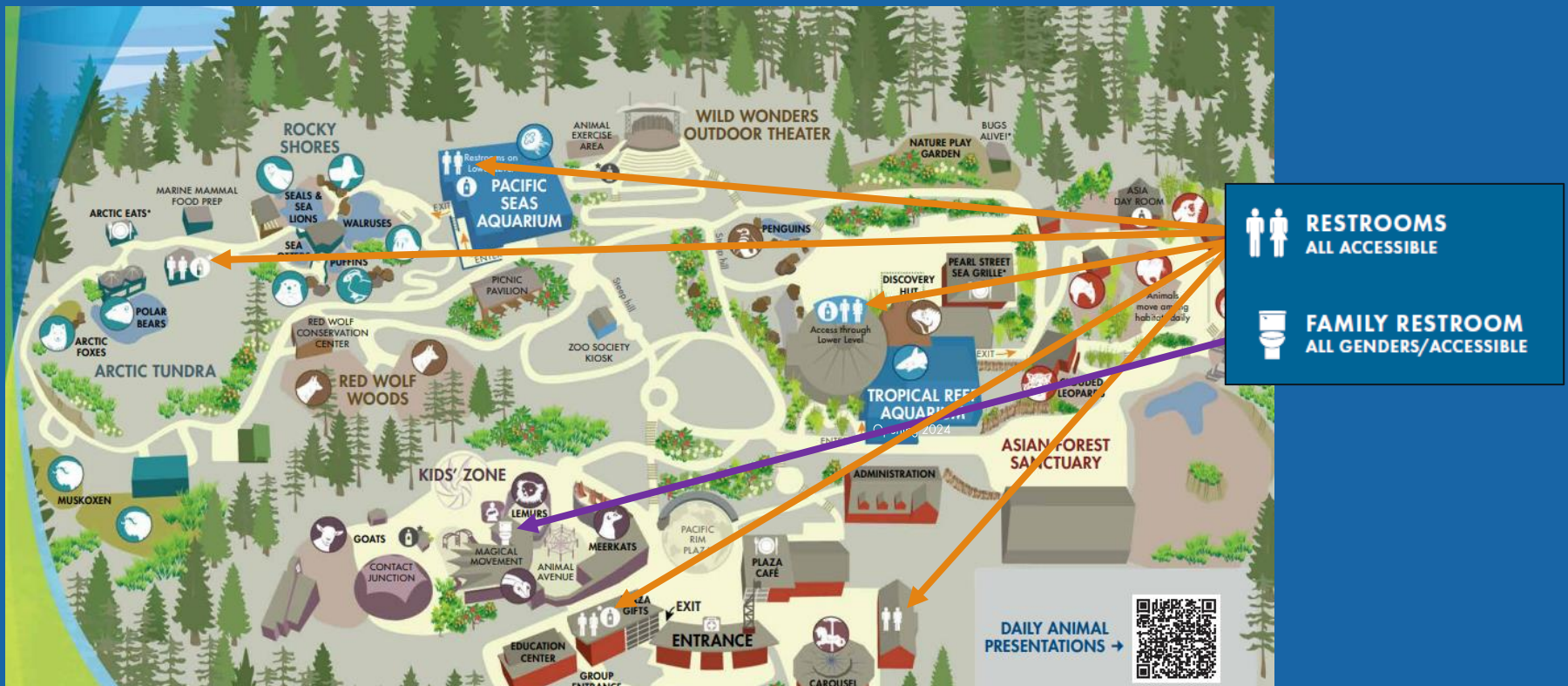
A zoo staff member will help me scan my ticket before I enter the zoo.



Inside the zoo there are a lot of things to see. I can look at maps and signs to help me find my way.



If I need to go to the bathroom, I can find the nearest one using the map. Some bathrooms have loud automatic flushes. If I need a quieter bathroom, I can use the ones located near the Carousel, the Nature Play Garden, the Arctic Tundra, or the family bathroom in Kids' Zone.



I will wash my hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. I can sing my ABC's while I'm washing my hands to know how long 20 seconds is. I can also use hand sanitizer to keep my hands clean.



Find out more on how to wash your hands here:

https://www.kulturecity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/KultureCity_Hand-Washing-v1.1.pdf

If it gets too loud or too crowded for me, I can get a sensory bag. A staff member at the Front Gate can help me get a bag. The sensory bags have items that can help me feel calm. I can use the fidget tools in my sensory bag to help me enjoy the Zoo with my family or group.



**Sensory Bags
Available
Here**

www.kulturecity.org



*Sensory Bags
are cleaned
between each
use.*



The cement paths take me to the animal exhibits. I will walk safely everywhere I go.

If I am not sure where to go, I can ask a person in a shirt with a polar bear on it. They will help me find my way. These shirts may be blue or green in color.



The animals I want to see will be behind a fence or glass. This is their home.



If I want to talk to an animal, I can wave, smile, or speak softly. The animal may get scared if I climb on the fence or tap on the glass.



Some animals may come close to me. It might be fun to get a closer look. I will follow the directions of the Zoo Keeper who is caring for the animal. It is also okay if I want to step away from the animal.



Sometimes the animals are resting where I can't see them. It is okay if I don't see every animal at the zoo.



Zoo staff and volunteers wear a uniform and a nametag. I can talk to a zoo staff member if I want to learn more about an animal. I will try to wait until they are not talking to someone. Waiting my turn to talk makes everyone happy.



When I visit the Tropical Reef Aquarium, I will see animals that live in coral reef habitats. It may be loud when I enter the aquarium. I can wear headphones if the noise bothers me.



At Tropical Shallows, I can touch sea stars and other animals that live in coral reefs. I will listen carefully to the staff member and follow their directions on how to touch the sea creatures. The shrimp may swim to my hand if I hold my hand still in the water. It might tickle. It is okay if I just want to look at the habitat.



As I move to the lower part of the Tropical Reef Aquarium, I will see lots of fish including sharks! It is a little dark in this space so I can see the animals better.



When I visit the Asian Forest Sanctuary, I may see tigers, gibbons, and porcupines. These animals change exhibits every day so I may see animals in a different place each time I visit. I may not see every animal. This is okay.



The Nature Play Garden is a place where I can look at plants and explore nature. Other kids may be playing in the garden, too. There are bees that live in the garden. I will give them some space. Sometimes, a Zoo Keeper may have a bug for people to look at up close.



I can see different kinds of animals at the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater. I will look at signs outside the theater to find out what time the next encounter is.



In the summer, I can watch a 25-30 minute show at the theater and learn about the cool things animals can do. Animals may fly above me. I can check out a Sensory Bag with headphones, fidget toys, and a weighted lap pad to help me enjoy the show. A staff member can help me check one out.



When I visit the Pacific Seas Aquarium, I will see lots of ocean animals. I will also see words moving along the wall. These tell me how people are connected to the ocean.



On the ramps in the aquarium, I will walk through the “Shimmer”. This art looks and moves like the reflection of water. I might get excited. I will walk down the ramp making sure not to run into other aquarium visitors. It’s okay to not like walking through the Shimmer. I can close my eyes and hold someone’s hand to help me feel better about walking through it.



When I visit the Tidal Touch Zone, it may be busy and I may have to wait my turn. This is okay. I will touch the animals gently with one finger and will not pull or lift the animals. Some of the animals will feel soft and slimy, some will feel hard like a rock. It is fun to learn about the sea stars and anemones.



Touch Animals Gently
with **One Finger**



Please **Do Not** Pull
or Lift the Animals

Remember to **Wash After Touching**

In Rocky Shores, I might see harbor seals, sea lions, walruses, sea otters, and birds. In Arctic Tundra, I might see a muskox, polar bear, or an Arctic fox.



I can visit the playground in Kids' Zone. Sometimes it is very busy with many kids climbing, sliding, and laughing. I will make sure to stay within sight of my adult. If I need a quiet place to take a break, I can sit on a bench near the goat yard.



The goats are fun to watch. They may jump and play with each other. I can pet them gently on the back if I want to. If my adult decides, I can buy pellets to feed the goats. I will hold the pellets in a flat, open hand and the goats will use their soft lips to pick up the food.



If my adult decides, I can ride the carousel. After my adult buys tickets, I will wait in line until the staff member opens the gate. Then I will walk to the carousel animal I want to ride. If someone else gets to that animal first, I will choose another carousel animal to ride.



It can be loud in the carousel, so I may want to wear my headphones.

If I use a wheelchair, the staff member will pull out a ramp for me so I can ride the carousel.

When it is time to leave, I will walk calmly through the exit gate. I can always come back to the zoo on another day.



I can learn more about the different animals I want to see at the zoo by visiting the Zoo's website before I arrive.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium website. The browser address bar displays "pdza.org". The logo on the left features a bear silhouette and the text "POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM Metro Parks Tacoma". The navigation menu includes "TICKETS", "MEMBERSHIP", and "DONATE" buttons, along with a search icon. Below this is a secondary menu with "VISIT", "DISCOVER", "ANIMALS", "CARE", "CONNECT", and "CONTACT". A "ZOO HOURS" section indicates "Open Daily 9am - 5pm". The main content area is framed by tropical foliage and features a "NEW AT THE ZOO" announcement. Two featured articles are visible: "Making a splash!" about a shark named Pepper and "Get Eye-to-Eye" about shark dives. A language selector at the bottom right is set to "English".

pdza.org

TICKETS MEMBERSHIP DONATE

VISIT DISCOVER ANIMALS CARE CONNECT CONTACT

ZOO HOURS Open Daily 9am - 5pm

NEW AT THE ZOO

Making a splash!
Pepper is now in her habitat in Rocky Shores.

Get Eye-to-Eye
Shark dives are back! Tickets are on sale now.

English

www.pdza.org



The logo is contained within an orange speech bubble with a diagonal hatched pattern. At the top is a white outline of a bear walking to the right. Below the bear, the text "POINT DEFIANCE" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the word "ZOO" is written in a very large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Below "ZOO", the text "& AQUARIUM" is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the sign, the text "Metro Parks Tacoma" is written in a white, sans-serif font inside a white rectangular box.

*Thanks for
visiting!*

