I’m going to visit the Seattle Aquarium today!

Today, I’m going to visit the Seattle Aquarium, located on the waterfront in Seattle, Washington. I will get to see a lot of fish, birds, marine mammals and more!

Entering and picking up a sensory bag

I’ll enter the Aquarium through the main entrance. If I want a sensory bag, I can ask one of the staff members working at the front counter.
What’s in a sensory bag?

The sensory bag has items that will help me feel calm. I can use the headphones and fidget tools in the sensory bag to help me stay calm and enjoy the Aquarium with my group/family.

Look for headphone zone signs

Specific areas in the Aquarium have been designated with signage as headphone zones to help me realize when I’m entering a louder area. This can help me be more prepared.
The photo booth

If I want to, I can get my picture taken and take it home as a souvenir of my visit to the Seattle Aquarium.

Window on Washington Waters

The first habitat I’ll see is the Window on Washington Waters. It holds 120,000 gallons of saltwater and is based on the seascape around Neah Bay, on the northwest tip of Washington state. It’s filled with hundreds of fish and invertebrates.
Staff and volunteers

The Seattle Aquarium has staff and volunteers stationed throughout the habitat areas. They wear uniforms with “Seattle Aquarium” embroidered on them. If I have a question about a habitat or animal, I can wait my turn to ask and they will be happy to answer.

Life on the Edge

The Life on the Edge habitat features animals that make their homes in tide pools on our local beaches. Staff and volunteers can share a lot of interesting facts about them.
Near the tide pools is the giant Pacific octopus habitat. It is also home to animals that share a habitat with giant Pacific octopuses in the wild, like sea stars and anemones.

The Pacific Coral Reef habitat is filled with animals that live in and around coral reefs in the warmer waters of the Pacific Ocean. The viewing windows in this habitat are brighter, and the hallway is a bit darker. This helps me see the brightly colored fish.
Café

The café is located on the second floor of the Aquarium. If it’s open during my visit, I can go there to buy food and drinks. I can’t take the food and drinks I buy outside the café.

Birds & Shores

In this area, I’ll see the habitats of Washington state shorelines and the bird species that can be found there. The habitat is open to the air, so I may notice that it’s cooler or warmer, or smells different, than other areas of the Aquarium.
Puget Sound Fish

The Puget Sound Fish habitat has fish that make their homes in the waters of Puget Sound. It's darker than other areas of the Aquarium and the tanks are brightly lit to help me see the fish and corals inside.

Underwater Dome

I'll walk through a short, darkened tunnel to get to the Underwater Dome, which features a 360-degree view into a 400,000-gallon habitat filled with hundreds of Puget Sound fish.
Underwater marine mammal viewing

Another short, darkened tunnel leads me to a window where I can look for the Aquarium’s marine mammals as they dive and swim below the surface.

Virtual reality experience: swimming with humpback whales

Near the underwater viewing area are the virtual reality pods. If space is available and I want to, I can buy a ticket for this experience.
Marine mammals

The marine mammal habitats have several different viewing areas, all open to the air, with harbor seals, fur seals and sea otters. I may notice that these areas are cooler or warmer, or smell different, than other areas of the Aquarium.

River otters

The last habitat before the exit is the river otters. These animals often sleep during the day so they may be hard to spot. This area has a waterfall and is also open to the air, so it may feel or smell different than other areas in the Aquarium.
Gift shop

If I want to, I can visit the Aquarium’s gift shop before I leave and buy something to help me learn more, protect the environment or remember what a good time I had.

I will visit again!

Knowing what to expect helps me have a great time at the Seattle Aquarium. I can’t wait to come again!