

Have a Great Experience and Be a Good Aquarium Guest

Top 10 Aquarium Visit Tips

1. Visit their website to obtain information about the aquarium you are visiting.
 - What are their hours?
 - Do they allow you to bring beverages and food?
 - Do they rent strollers?
 - Do they allow strollers? Some aquariums do not.
 - Do they have electric wheel chairs available?
 - Do they have scheduled public feeding times?
 - Do they have daily scheduled shows?
 - Do they have rental lockers or coat checks?
 - What are the entrance and parking fees?
 - Can you buy tickets online?
 - Do they have a capacity limit? If so, at what time of the day is it normally reached?
 - Are there extra charges for different areas?
 - Are there public feed stations? If so, how much does it cost?
 - Should you buy a family membership?
2. Check for hotel partnerships. Many aquariums have partnered with local hotels, and offer family package plans. Even if you live in town, an overnight stay at a hotel can add some extra fun.
3. Plan your parking. This is very important when visiting aquariums in major metro areas. Know if they have a drop off and how far it is to the closest parking area.
4. If the aquarium has outdoor areas, check the day before to see what the weather will be.
5. Plan what to wear.
 - Shoes. This will be the most important apparel item of the day. A couple of hours walking in flip-flops and some sandals will quickly tire the ankles, leg joints, and muscles. Do not wear new shoes for the visit, you may develop blisters.
 - Clothing. Some aquariums have well air conditioned areas.
 - In the winter months consider what you will be doing with your outer clothing while inside.
6. Plan what to take.
 - Cameras.
 - Comfortable purse and/or backpack. Expect to have them searched at the entrance.
 - Wipes and anti-bacterial hand cream.
 - Money. Take enough for small gifts, snacks and any unexpected expenditures. Remember cash machines are not always up and running.
 - Required Medicines, plus any "as needed" medications for pain, allergies, and asthma, also band aids.
7. Upon arrival discuss where to meet if you get separated. Most aquariums do not have public address systems to make in-park announcements.
8. Know where all of the rest rooms are located.
9. Follow the basic rules that apply for any aquarium visit.
 - Do not tease or feed animals. This includes pounding on display tanks. Not only will you irritate the animals but other guests as well.
 - Tanks are for viewing, not touching. Each hand and face leaves traces of oil that accumulates and diminishes the quality of the view.
 - Do not climb barriers for a better photo or to touch the exhibits.
 - Most aquarium displays are "no flash" zones. The flash excites the fish and will reflect off the acrylic tanks giving you a poor quality photograph.
 - Do not enter private or restricted areas.
 - Supervise your children at all times, including in the restrooms. Do not allow them to spoil another visitor's experience.
 - Tobacco products and gum are prohibited at all aquariums.
 - No pets allowed.
10. Plan to take a break. Children bore easily when just looking at exhibits, they need to be engaged with questions. Time your visit and tour to catch a show or feeding.