



Oct.1, 2013

Frequently Asked Questions About Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive

What diving programs are available?

We have two.

- Underwater Cage Dive for non-certified divers. No experience is necessary.
- Scuba Dive for certified scuba divers. Proof of certification required.

Where are the dives held?

- In the 240,000-gallon, warm, salt-water South Pacific Aquarium.

How many sharks do you have?

- 17 sharks, including a 9-foot, 450-pound lemon shark, nurse sharks, sandbar sharks, sand tiger sharks, blacktip reef shark and Wobbegong shark. You can learn more about all of our sharks at www.pdza.org/aquariums.

How much does a dive cost?

- **Cage Dive:** \$50 for Zoo members; \$65 for non-members
- **Scuba Dive:** \$160 for Zoo members; \$175 for non-members

How long does a dive last?

- **Cage Dive:** Approximately 20 minutes in the water. The entire program runs about 1 hour.

- **Scuba Dive:** Approximately 30 minutes in the water. The entire program runs about 75 minutes.

Are there any restrictions for participants?

Yes.

- **Age:** 8 and up for the cage dive; 15 and up for the Scuba dive
- **Weight:** No more than 275 pounds
- **Health:** Divers must be in good health and fill out a health-question form. Pregnant women cannot dive.

What is a Cage Dive?

We have a sturdy cage suspended in the South Pacific Aquarium. Participants view the sharks while underwater in the cage with a trained diver as a guide.

Will divers leave the cage to swim in the aquarium?

No. Cage divers will remain in the cage during their experience.

If someone doesn't scuba dive, how will he or she breathe underwater?

Cage divers will wear masks and breathe surface-supplied air through a special mouthpiece. Dive staff will provide expert instruction on how to use the equipment and ensure that divers are comfortable with the apparatus before they enter the water.

Can you describe the scuba dive?

Scuba divers will be escorted into the South Pacific Aquarium exhibit via the cage by a trained diver/guide and will swim to specially selected viewing spots inside the aquarium.

Do divers need any special equipment?

No. We supply all the necessary gear for both cage divers and scuba divers. Since divers will wear dry suits, they don't even need a bathing suit. Our dry suits will zip over street clothes and seal out water. However, divers' heads and hands will get wet.

Can scuba divers bring their own equipment?

No. Divers may bring a prescription mask if they need one, but that's all. We supply

everything needed for the dives.

Other details

- **Clothing:** Divers should wear comfortable street clothes, free of jewelry like dangling earrings. Although the water is warm (about 75 degrees F) you might want a thermal or other warm shirt or sweatshirt under the dry suit.
- **Lockers:** We have secure lockers available for divers' belongings.
- **Showers/hair dryers:** We have facilities available for showering, if divers choose. Hair dryers are available for those who'd like to dry their hair before leaving the dive building.
- **Wet clothing:** In the unlikely event a diver's clothing gets wet, we have laundry facilities and clothing participants can wear while their clothes dry.
- **Cameras:** For safety reasons, divers aren't allowed to bring cameras on their dive. Our trained dive staff will take video of each dive and participants may purchase a copy.
- **Additional photos:** Friends and family can photograph scuba divers from the South Pacific Aquarium viewing window.
- **Friends and family:** There's a spot in the South Pacific Aquarium for them to watch through the viewing window.
- **Parents:** May accompany their children if they also purchase a dive. Parents who don't dive must pay zoo admission. They may accompany their children through the safety briefing, and then watch through the South Pacific Aquarium viewing window.
- **Purchasing dives as gifts:** Zoo gift cards are available at the Zoo front gate. They may be used for Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives.

###

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).