

# SUMMER OF 2015 BUCKET LIST

*presented by*

**POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM AND NORTHWEST TREK WILDLIFE PARK**



Fly high in the air and walk a tight rope in the sky.



Get Eye-to-Eye with sharks during an underwater dive.



## **FLY/DIVE EXPERIENCES BRING THRILLS OF A LIFETIME**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 4, 2015

Imagine soaring through towering evergreens on a zip line more than five stories high. Then, in practically the next breath, diving into tropical waters to come eye-to-eye with 16 sharks in five different species.

Northwest Trek Wildlife Park and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium each offer exhilarating experiences that are unparalleled in the Puget Sound region. It's possible to do both in one day, though for maximum adventure, thrill-seekers might want to schedule a Fly-Dive mini-vacation and dive with the sharks on one day, then fly high in the trees the next.

Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and the Zip Wild experiences at Northwest Trek provide more than a day of adventure. At each location, it's a day of adventure *plus* an amazing animal-watching experience.

## Zip Wild at Northwest Trek

The five Zip Wild courses at Northwest Trek are now open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. They bring aerial thrills amid towering evergreens for ages 5 through adult.



Beginning June 13, they will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through the summer.

The smaller courses are built lower to the ground and sized for kids. The more extensive courses go higher into the canopy – one as high as eight stories – and offer a series of

challenges that test participants' physical agility and mental toughness.

On four of the courses, zip lines are separated by tight ropes to walk, nets to climb through, swinging, zig-zag bridges and other aerial obstacles. The fifth-course is a zip line only trip that sends riders soaring through the trees. It's just right for people who want the zip line experience without the additional challenges.

Participants on all courses are safely attached to lines with sturdy harnesses and get instruction before they begin.

Zip Wild participants must pay admission or have a membership to Northwest Trek in addition to the course fees.

**Sensation:** Ages 18+, \$59.95, plus tax.

Very tough challenges, long zip lines, highest point more than eight stories.

**Adventure:** Ages 10+, \$39.95, plus tax.

A great aerial test of physical agility and determination. Highest point is 55 feet.

**Discovery:** Ages 8+, \$29.95, plus tax.

A great course for people who want to try a zip line/challenge experience and the test of skills and abilities it brings without major obstacles. About 20 feet high.

**Super Kid:** Ages 5+, \$19.95 plus tax per child; \$9.95 plus tax for accompanying guardian.

Sized just right for small children who get a workout and fun challenges while being relatively low to the ground.

**Aerial Runway:** Ages 8+, \$18.95 plus tax.

Climb a ladder, hook on to the line and zip through the trees. An exhilarating ride for those who want the speed without the obstacles.

Reservations are required and may be made at [www.nwtrek.org/zipwild](http://www.nwtrek.org/zipwild).

### **Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium**



Sixteen sharks of five different species cruise through the 240,000 gallon South Pacific Aquarium, coming nearly eye-to-eye with visitors who are watching them from underwater vantage points.

There are two programs offered. One for non-divers and one for certified scuba divers.

**Cage Dives:** No diving experience is necessary to participate in the Eye-to-Eye cage dives. Visitors as young as 8 confidently enter the aquarium and descend into an underwater cage. Participants get a brief instruction period before pulling on dry suits, putting on masks, and going underwater breathing surface-supplied air. For the next 30 minutes or so, they watch, transfixed, as sandbar and sand tiger, blacktip reef and nurse sharks swim by. A Japanese wobbegong shark also lives in the aquarium.

**Scuba Dives:** Certified scuba divers ages 15 and up put on scuba gear and descend into the aquarium with trained diver guides. There, they get an even closer view of the 16 sharks – plus a large array of other colorful fish. They move around the exhibit from station to station and get multiple views of sharks from a variety of angles. Plus, there are photo opportunities in front of the large aquarium window so friends and families can get snapshots.

All of the Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives include information about the valuable role sharks play in the world's oceans. They are magnificent animals, but shark species are in peril. Millions of sharks are killed each year for their fins to be used in delicacies like shark fin soup. Many more die when they are unintentionally caught up in fishing nets.

Dives are scheduled on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays through the summer.

The cost for a cage dive is \$60 for zoo members and \$75 for non-members. Scuba dives are \$105 for zoo members and \$120 for non-members.

Reservations should be made in advance at [www.pdza.org/dive](http://www.pdza.org/dive), but zoo visitors may inquire at the front gate to see if any spots are open on a given day.

And, of course, since the zip lines and shark dives are located in two premier zoos, there's a lot to do at each location before or following a zip line experience or shark dive.

See native Northwest animals at Northwest Trek and hop aboard a tram for a 50-minute, narrated tour of a Free-Roaming Area that's home to bison, elk, moose, bighorn sheep and other animals. And see Sumatran tigers, clouded leopards, walrus, polar bears, lemurs, meerkats and hundreds of other animals at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

It's still spring, but the Summer of Adventure is under way. Skies are blue. Water is warm. And Fly-Dive experiences await those who are ready for Bucket List experiences that will be remembered for years to come.



*Northwest Trek Wildlife Park and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium are sister zoos operated by Metro Parks Tacoma. Both are accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. Northwest Trek is a 725-acre zoological park located near Eatonville, 35 miles southeast of Tacoma off State Highway 161. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, is located in Point Defiance Park.*

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