



SEAS OF WONDER

Dive deep into a journey of discovery
at the new Pacific Seas Aquarium in 2018

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TACOMA, Wash. – Imagine standing at a window that soars several feet above the heads of even the tallest visitors, then arches over them in a graceful curve. Necks crane. People look up, up, up.

Endangered scalloped hammerhead sharks glide above. Straight ahead, green sea turtles swim placidly by, staring at visitors with dark, expressive eyes. Spotted eagle rays appear to fly through the water, their large wings rhythmically flapping through Baja Bay.

This is the Pacific Seas Aquarium, a \$52 million aquatic animal showcase scheduled to open at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma, Wash., during the summer of 2018.

The 35,000-square-foot building will be home to sea animals that inhabit the Pacific Ocean, from the cold waters of Alaska and Puget Sound to the warmer coastal seas of Baja California - and half a world away to Japan and other Pacific Rim nations.

Seas of Wonder

Children and adults will take a voyage of discovery as they enter the aquarium's upper level and then make their way downward – as if going deeper in the ocean – via a series of ramps. They will be amazed, enthralled, and inspired by:

- **A Tidal Surge** exhibit featuring sea stars, anemones and urchins
- **Eye-level views** of scalloped hammerhead sharks
- **Giant Japanese spider crabs**
- **More than 1,000 dipping, darting herring** schooling together
- **Colorful jellies with long tentacles** swaying to and fro in a beautiful gallery
- **Leopard sharks** and California sheephead swimming in a coastal kelp forest
- An “**Under the Narrows**” exhibit featuring an array of interesting creatures native to Puget Sound
- **A Giant Pacific Octopus**
- **The 75,000-gallon Northwest Waters** exhibit with its 25-foot-long floor-to-ceiling viewing window
- **A large, colorful Tidal Touch Zone** that’s perfect for kids and adults who want to get hands-on experiences with small sea creatures
- **A marine estuary habitat** featuring eel grass, plants, rockery, shiner perch, bay pipefish and other creatures
- **And the 250,000-gallon Baja Bay exhibit**, home to scalloped hammerhead sharks, green sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and a variety of tropical fish representing the critical habitat that lies between Baja California and mainland Mexico

Seas of Change

The animals of the Pacific Seas Aquarium will inspire visitors to care about them. State-of-the-art graphics will tell the story of the ocean and its challenges. Interactive kiosks and hands-on activities will help visitors make greater connections between themselves and the waters we all share. Those who pass through the levels of the Pacific Seas Aquarium, from the exhibits on the top floor to the spectacular Baja Bay at its core, will leave with knowledge and tools they can use to take individual actions toward a healthier ocean.

See it this summer

The Pacific Seas Aquarium will open in the summer of 2018 at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest’s only combined zoo and aquarium. In addition to the Pacific Seas Aquarium, the grounds also are home to the South Pacific Aquarium, which features a complement of 16 large sharks in five species, the popular Stingray Cove touch tank and the Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive experience, in which visitors can go underwater to see those large sharks up close.

The 29-acre Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium also is home to a number of threatened and endangered marine mammals and land species, including Pacific walruses, polar bears, sea otters, Sumatran tigers, Malayan tapirs, clouded leopards, primates and other animals.

For more information, go to www.pdza.org/pacificseasaquarium.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest’s only combined zoo and aquarium, practices and 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).

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