



OCEAN EXPLORER VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

Stay dry while exploring our oceans underwater with Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's new virtual reality experience

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 23, 2019

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's new Ocean Explorer Virtual Reality experience is now open in the Pacific Seas Aquarium.

While virtual reality is a computer generated simulation, the Ocean Explorer experience will make you feel as if you really are in the middle of the ocean. You can choose to swim with humpbacks, come face to fin with sharks or even go on an underwater adventure in your own mini-submarine.

If you choose the "Swimming with Humpbacks" experience, you will get a rare glimpse and insight into the giant humpback whales as they migrate from Antarctica to the Kingdom of Tonga during mating season.

(link to trailer here for Swimming with Humpbacks <https://vimeo.com/318496307>)

If you choose the "Shark Dive" experience, you will try to find Tiger Beach, a mythical underwater strip where some of the world's largest sharks are said to gather.

Other experiences offered include following along on a sea turtle's journey and exploring corals, shipwrecks and the mysteries of the deep.

"These videos show the natural environments of many of the animals we have here in our aquariums," Donna Powell, business manager at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. "The virtual reality experience helps to instill appreciation and awe for the ocean and all it has to offer."

About Ocean Explorer Virtual Experience:

What: 4 underwater virtual reality experiences to choose from

Hours: Open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. during Zoo hours

Cost: \$8 non-member, \$6 member

Where: Located in the Pacific Seas Aquarium as you exit the Baja Bay habitat

If the virtual reality experience inspires you to learn more about aquatic animals, book an Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive to see them underwater in person. You can get up close to massive sharks while learning about their biology from an underwater cage, staying cozy in a dry-suit and breathing surface air. Ages 8+, no experience necessary. (link to: <https://www.pdza.org/discover/shark-dives/>)

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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. A member of the Metro Parks Tacoma family, the zoo creates a legacy of sustainability for future generations through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities; it also embodies Metro Parks' mission of creating healthy opportunities to play, learn and grow. The zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA). The Zoo Society, a 501(c)(3) organization, is an instrumental partner in the conservation, animal-welfare and education initiatives.

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