



## ZOOLIGHTS KICKS OFF ON FRIDAY!

*Over 700,000 LED lights, new Kraken display, indoor areas closed, buy tickets in advance*

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TACOMA, Wash.—The longstanding community tradition of Zoolights at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium begins this Friday, Nov. 27. The Zoo has transformed into a colorful winter wonderland- with more than 700,000 LED lights now strung across trees, shrubs, pathways and displays. Health remains the top priority for the Zoo, with protocols in place to ensure adequate social distancing in accordance with Washington state’s current restrictions. Capacity is limited, advance timed online tickets are required, indoor areas are closed, face coverings are required for everyone 5 and older and guests will follow safe one-way, open air paths.

“We hope our guests feel incredibly safe when they visit us,” said Zoo Director Alan Varsik. “With everything going on, we are excited to offer them this outdoor experience to take in the magic of the holiday season.”



Once guests step foot in the Zoo, they will be immersed in sparkling lights. Local landmarks like the towering 23-foot-high Mount Rainier and two Tacoma Narrows bridges, a giant crab with moving pincers and an 8-foot-long sea turtle will be among the familiar favorites, along with whimsical animal scenes like sledding penguins, ice skating puffins, a walrus family and a trio of polar bears. The “tunnel of lights” will

also return this year, now longer than ever at 117-feet. See if you can spot the muskox calf as well, a tribute to the zoo’s muskoxen Charlotte, Hudson and their calf Trebek who was born in June.

New this year: look for two lit up hockey sticks and a familiar new sports logo in the Northwest- a salute to the Seattle Kraken, near the 100-foot-wide pink-and-orange octopus.

Zoolights begins Nov. 27 and runs through Jan. 3. Hours are 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. nightly, except for a two-night closure on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.

To purchase your tickets for this longest-running and most-loved holiday light extravaganza in the region, visit: [www.pdza.org/zoolights](http://www.pdza.org/zoolights).

### Prices

- Mon.-Thurs.: \$11 general admission, \$5.50 members
- Fri.-Sun.: \$14 general admission, \$7 members
- Children 2 and younger are free
- Special discount for BECU members

Both aquariums, the goat area and the carousel will be closed during Zoolights. Food and gift kiosks will be open. The aquariums will be open during the day for guests who visit the Zoo.

A premier goat grooming experience called [Groovy Goats](#) can be added on at night for an additional fee during Zoolights. Tickets for up to 5 household members must be reserved online in advance.

Zoolights is presented by BECU.

For more information, go to [www.pdza.org/zoolights](http://www.pdza.org/zoolights).

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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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