

SEA LIFE Aquarium

Planning Guide

Welcome to SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's, Auckland Aquarium!

At Kelly Tarlton's we foster students' love and care for the ocean with immersive and engaging learning opportunities for students of all ages.

The mission of the SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's is to inspire conservation of the ocean. The aquarium is a place where people of all ages come to explore and discover the wonders of the sea. This Excursion Planning Guide is designed to help you and your parent helpers prepare for your aquarium visit to ensure that not only do your students get the most out of their visit, but you do as well!

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Pre-planning

the key to an enjoyable and educational visit

Talk to your students about your visit to Kelly Tarlton's in the lead-up to your visit. If most of your students have never visited the aquarium before, be sure to show them an aquarium map and talk to them about some of the animals they will see in the aquarium. Let them visit our website and visit the habitat zones to familiarize themselves with the animals. One main question we get from students is "Do you have whales?" No, we do not, so check what is in the aquarium before you visit to manage expectations.

Share your excursion plan with students

Let students know what they should expect on the day of their visit, talk them through the day from departing school to returning to school, with the fun part in between. Put together a timeline of activities for the day to familiarize themselves with events. Let them know how they will arrive, the name and focus of their lesson if they are having one, any activities they will be participating in, when and where they will have lunch, their required behavior, toilet breaks and anything else you think is important.

Link educational goals of the excursion to your classroom

Students learn more and feel better about excursions when teachers use structured activities before and/ or after an aquarium visit to create a context for the experience and link it with classroom work. The aquarium has a host of curriculum materials, aligned to the New Zealand Curriculum, for teachers to utilize in their classrooms.

Our Self-Directed Program allows you and your students to explore the aquarium at your own leisure. Take advantage of the special educational talks that will occur throughout your visit.

Here is a list of current talks at the aquarium. Please note these can be subject to change so please check our website for any changes.

Time	What	Where
10:30am	Turtle Bay Talk	Turtle Bay
11:15am	Sea Cave Talk	Sea Cave Adventure
11:30am	Penguin Talk	Antarctic Ice Adventure
12:30pm	Turtle Talk	Turtle Bay
1:00pm	Tunnel Talk (Fish/Shark)	Oceanarium Fish Tunnel
1:45pm	Penguin Talk	Antarctic Ice Adventure
2:15pm	Sea Cave Talk	Sea Cave Adventure
3:00pm	Tunnel Talk (Fish/Shark)	Oceanarium Fish Tunnel

These talks can be found on our website at:

visitsealife.com/auckland/plan-your-day/before-you-visit/feed-and-talk-times/

Parent helpers and Behavioral requirements

Parent helpers are responsible for the behavior and safety of the students, and they shape each student's learning experience during the aquarium visit. It is important you carefully select and prepare them ahead of time. It is helpful to meet with the parent helpers before the day of the excursion. If that is not possible, make sure you provide them with written information and a schedule ahead of time. You can review their parent helper responsibilities and share your expectations of the students before you leave school.

Parent helper will be responsible for the behavior of the students, please communicate the following to your parent helpers prior to your visit.

Behavior

Stay with your Group

All of our school visitors, from preschool through Year 12, must stay with their parent helper or teacher at all times while inside the aquarium. This includes when they are in the playground. Students are not permitted to explore the aquarium unsupervised. This policy is for the protection of your students and the safety and comfort of all visitors.

Be Courteous and respectful of other visitors

Talk quietly and walk through the aquarium; running, yelling and climbing are not permitted.

Be respectful of the aquarium exhibits and building.

Use notebooks or clipboards to write against, instead of walls, windows, or exhibit labels. Climbing on exhibits or railings is not permitted.

Help care for the animals

At touch pool areas, touch the animals gently and always keep them under the water. Do not disturb exhibit animals by tapping on the windows.

Students are not permitted to eat inside the Café unless purchasing food there.

Remember everyone must enter as a group in order to receive the school group discount. If parents are paying for themselves and walk up separate to the rest of the group, they will be charged standard walk-up prices.

Please ensure that all adult helpers have received, signed and returned the Parent Helper Agreement prior to your visit. This will be attached to the confirmation email sent to you by our on-site education team.

Arrival procedures

Starting off on the right foot for a great day ahead

Before your visit

1. Check you have written confirmation and that all details relating to any lessons, dates and times are correct. Make sure you have your Booking Number. If you do not have these your booking is not complete.
2. If you did not receive a confirmation or need to make any corrections, email learn@kellytarltons.co.nz
3. Confirm your transportation arrangements with your bus company or train connections.
4. Check where the arrival bays are for buses if arriving by bus, buses must not park in the car park at Kelly Tarlton's. There is a public bus stop at number 21 Tamaki Drive where buses may park.
5. Discuss Behavior Expectations with your students
6. Prepare your Parent Helpers
7. Assign student groups in groups of ten to your parent helpers with a name badge that identifies them and their group e.g. Penguins, Sharks, Turtles and so on.
8. Collect any educational materials and writing materials to use with students during your visit.

Free Teacher Pre-Planning Visit

You may request a free teacher planning visit to familiarize yourself with the aquarium from the Education Team one week prior to your visit date. Check out the new exhibits and plan the educational activities your students will do while they are visiting the aquarium and to complete a risk assessment.

If you wish to visit the aquarium regularly with family members it is recommended, you purchase an Annual Pass for regular visits. Three visits per year are valid for approval for teachers. Free Teacher Visits are not for multiple uses.

Public Holidays and School Holidays are not available for free teacher visit requests.

Please email the Education Team at learn@kellytarltons.co.nz one week prior to your requested date. There is an approval process that you will need to go through.

Arrival Information

If arriving by bus, you may park at number 21 Tamaki Drive at the public bus stop. Your students may alight here and assemble before approaching the attraction.

For groups conducting a self-directed tour, you will enter through the ENTRY. When you arrive at the aquarium, the first thing you'll do is check in with an aquarium staff member at the admissions desk.

Please keep your students and adult helpers in an orderly line on the ramp leading to the admissions desk while you finalize the booking, ensuring that there is space for other guests to comfortably get by.

For groups having lessons, you will all enter through the EXIT building. You will be required to call the educator on 0275 340 744 upon your arrival, who will then meet you outside the EXIT building and lead the entire group in through the exit. The group having the first lesson should be at the front so that they can enter the classroom.

For all groups, lead teachers will need to be at the front of the group to either make payment or present the receipt (issued by our website) for any pre-payment that has been made by booking online. They should also have exact numbers ready to tell the staff. Being unable to provide exact numbers will result in delays as you conduct a headcount.

During your visit

What you need to know for a smooth trip

Emergency Procedures

Students should know they can ask anyone wearing a SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium name badge or uniform for assistance.

If a student gets injured, ask anyone wearing an aquarium name badge to call for assistance and an aquarium officer will report to the location of the injured person. Teachers are responsible for communicating with their school officials in the event of a student injury. In the rare event of an emergency requiring the evacuation of the aquarium, all students, teachers and parent helpers should exit the building at the closest available exit and follow the instructions of the staff. Please be prepared to follow all instructions from aquarium representatives while organizing your group. You are expected to line up together by school name. Account for all members of your group and confirm with aquarium staff. Teachers are responsible for communicating with their school officials if an emergency significantly impacts excursion timelines.

A more comprehensive Risk Assessment Matrix can be downloaded from our website - <https://www.visitsealife.com/auckland/schools/book-now/>

Retail Store

Students are not permitted to enter the gift shop at any time unless they are purchasing items. In order to exit the building groups are to use the emergency exit in the Seahorse Kingdom rather than going through the gift shop.

Lunch Plans

Please let students know they will need to carry their lunch in a backpack or bag whilst inside the aquarium. **School groups are not allowed to eat or drink on the cafe tables and chairs**, unless they purchase food or beverages from the cafe.

There are public benches that they are welcome to use, however large groups are not to congregate in an area to eat all at the same time. We simply do not have the space and it becomes a hazard to have entire areas blocked by large groups. **We recommend staggering lunchtime for different groups so that you are not all eating at once.**

There is a large park area to the north of the SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's entrance about a 5 mins walk once the students have exited the attraction. This is owned by the Auckland City Council and cannot be reserved. Other members of the general public also use this area. Bins are provided for rubbish so please keep it clean.

After lunch, inspire your students to care for our planet by reminding them to clean up after themselves. Feeding birds and wildlife is discouraged as this can be harmful to animals. Students can use the bins to discard any leftover food or packaging.

Excursion Planning Timeline

Be well prepared to take stress out of it

Six weeks before your trip

- ☐ Look for your confirmation and booking number in your email inbox
- ☐ Confirm your transportation
- ☐ Duplicate and distribute maps and parking information for the bus driver
- ☐ If coming with other teachers, meet to determine the schedule and learning activities for the day

Two weeks before your trip

- ☐ Confirm your parent helpers
- ☐ Conduct pre-visit activities
- ☐ Create your schedule for the day, including your lunch plans and communicate this accordingly

Two weeks before your trip

- ☐ Collect permission slips from your students
- ☐ Gather your paperwork including Parent Helper Agreements and Behavior Contracts
- ☐ Review the Behavior Contract with your group
- ☐ Assign student into groups

Two weeks before your trip

- ☐ Confirm your parent helpers
- ☐ Conduct pre-visit activities
- ☐ Create your schedule for the day, including your lunch plans and communicate this accordingly

Departing Kelly Tarlton's

We hope you had a great time and that we will see you again soon

School groups are required to exit the attraction via the emergency exit doors located in the Seahorse Kingdom. There will be a sign indicating which door groups should go through. Once through the emergency exit doors, the car park is located to the left, up the stairs.

When you and your students depart the aquarium, you should do so in good time to eat, use the bathroom, count your students and meet your connecting travel home.

Please remember to complete your feedback survey that will be sent to you at the end of the month of your visit. Feedback for us is vital in making sure we meet your requirements. It is recommended that you rebook for the following year or future dates just after your visit to ensure you have the date and time you require.

If there is anything not covered in the planning document, please let the Education Team know by emailing: learn@kellytarltons.co.nz

Sample schedule for school groups participating in 2 separate classroom sessions.

Time	Group 1	Group 2
9:45am	School meet educator at the exit building	
10am	Classroom Lesson	Explore
10:30am		Morning Tea at Turtle Bay or Kelly's Alcove
11am	Morning Tea at Turtle Bay or Kelly's Alcove	Classroom Lesson
11:30am	Explore	
12pm		
12:30pm	Lunch	Explore
1:00pm	Explore	
1:30pm	Prepare for departure	

