

SEA LIFE Zone Guide

School Visit Guidance Document



Use this guide to help plan your visit, key discussion points, and learning activities for your students. The aquarium is laid out in a linear route, allowing you to move through the zones in order.

Penguin Ice Adventure

In the Penguin Ice Adventure zone, you'll step into a chilly Antarctic style habitat to meet a lively colony of Gentoo penguins. Here, students can watch the penguins trumpet, dive and play as they swim through the freezing water or relax on land in their icy environment.

Students can learn about adaptation to extreme environments, penguin behaviour, and conservation challenges facing polar regions. **See signs within the attraction for timings on talks.**

Toilets, including accessible facilities, are located in this zone just after the main entrance. The next available toilets are in the Jelly Invaders zone, towards the end of the tour.

Tropical Ocean – Shark Lagoon

Tip: This area can become busy during peak periods. After viewing the Shark Lagoon and Rockpool, you may wish to move through to the next zone, where there is more space to gather students and discuss what they have observed.

In Shark Lagoon, students can see Brownbanded Bamboo Sharks and Guitarfish (a species of ray) gliding through the water or resting on the sandy bottom.

These fascinating animals are well adapted to life in the ocean, with streamlined bodies that help them move efficiently through the water.

This zone is a great opportunity to explore the similarities and differences between sharks and rays, their unique adaptations, and the important role they play in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems.



Rockpool

Tip: This area can become busy during peak periods. After exploring the Rockpool, you may wish to move to the next zone, where there is more space to discuss observations from both the Rockpool and Shark Lagoon.



In the Rockpool, students can discover a variety of colourful creatures that live where the sea meets the shore, such as starfish, anemones and crabs. Here, they'll see how these animals cling to rocks, hide in crevices and respond to changes in tide and environment.

This zone offers a great chance to explore adaptations, intertidal life and how ocean habitats support so many different species.

Clownfish Kingdom and Coral Reef

In Clownfish Kingdom, students can come nose-to-fin with one of the ocean's most recognisable fish.

This colourful coral reef habitat is full of activity, with species such as Clownfish, Blue Tangs and Blue Spotted Stingrays swimming among the reef.

This zone highlights a range of species adapted to reef environments, helping students connect what they've learned about habitats with real animals they can see during their visit. They will also learn about the unique relationship between clownfish and anemones.



Bay of Rays

Tip: This area can become busy during peak periods. You may find it helpful to move towards the back of the room, where there is more space, along with some bench seating, to gather students and discuss the animals in this zone.

If you've booked a workshop, it will take place in our Beyond the Surface area, located at the back of this zone.

In the Bay of Rays, students can see an assortment of amazing Skate rays, including Thornback, Blonde and Painted Rays, which are native to UK waters. These fascinating animals often glide close to the seabed, using their flat bodies to move smoothly through the water.

During your visit, you'll also get the chance to find out more about our rays through talks from our team of SEA LIFE experts. **See signs within the attraction for timings on talks.**

Kingdom of Seahorses

In the Kingdom of the Seahorses, students can discover these curious creatures and their relatives, the pipefish.

Members of the same family, they share unique features such as straw-like snouts and bodies protected by bony plates and are known for being slow swimmers.

This zone is a great opportunity to learn about animal adaptations, unusual reproduction, and the habitats seahorses live in around the world.



Rainforest and Mangrove

In this zone students will explore a warm tropical environment which is home to species such as Piranhas, Crayfish and Turtles.

Mangroves are specially adapted trees that grow where rivers meet the sea. Their complex root systems provide shelter for young animals and help protect coastlines, making them an important part of healthy ecosystems.

Students can observe Piranhas swimming in groups and consider their role as scavengers, helping to keep river habitats balanced. Students may also spot turtles resting or swimming, adapted to life in freshwater with strong limbs and streamlined shells.

This zone is a great opportunity to explore habitats, food chains and the importance of conservation.

Otter Sanctuary - Rescue Facility

Tip: After students have observed Ozzy and Ola, you may wish to move beyond the main viewing area to continue discussions about conservation and animal care.



In the Rescue Facility, students can learn how SEA LIFE teams help rescue, rehabilitate and protect marine animals in need.

This area is home to Ozzy and Ola, two rescued Alaskan sea otters, who are part of a pioneering education and conservation project, which is the first of its kind in the UK.

This zone offers a great opportunity to discover how rescued animals are cared for and how conservation projects help protect marine wildlife.

Jelly Invaders



In Jelly Invaders, students can see jellyfish drifting through illuminated tanks under colourful lights.

Species such as Moon Jellyfish, Sea Nettle Jellyfish and Sarlacc Jellyfish float and pulse through the water. Despite having no brains or bones, these fascinating creatures have survived in our oceans for millions of years.

This zone is a great opportunity to discover more about jellyfish adaptations, life cycles and their mysterious underwater world.

Toilets, including accessible facilities, are located in this zone. The next available toilets are at the main reception area.

Ocean Tunnel

Tip: The Ocean Tunnel is a popular area within the attraction. After students have explored the tunnel, you may wish to gather the group in the open space just beyond it to discuss what they have seen and allow other guests to continue enjoying the experience.

In the Ocean Tunnel, students can journey through the UK's only 360° underwater tunnel. As you walk through, you'll see Blacktip Reef Sharks, Nurse Sharks, rays and hundreds of tropical fish swimming overhead and beneath your feet.

Keep an eye out for Molokai, the giant green sea turtle, one of the tunnel's most impressive residents.

This zone offers a unique chance to experience life beneath the ocean's surface and observe these incredible animals up close.

