# HELLO Field Trippers!

Visit Preparation Guide

This preparation guide is designed to help you and your parent helpers plan for your upcoming aquarium visit, to ensure you all enjoy your day.

Amazing Discovery is the essence of SEA LIFE and we aim to inspire love and care for the ocean with place-based learning. Students of all ages can come and discover the wonders of the sea and leave feeling motivated to conserve the ocean.





# Before you leave

Contact OrlandoSales@MerlinEntertainments.biz with any questions

Before your visit, please check out the pre and post lesson plans we have available: Amazing Oceans Guide PowerPoint Presentation (visitsealife.com) & Food Chains & Ecosystems Guide PowerPoint Presentation (visitsealife.com) These can link your visit to the topics your classes are currently covering. They are free to download and are aligned to the national curriculum.

Our self-guided program allows you and your students to explore the aquarium at your leisure. You can find our resources for self guided tours here [Teacher Resources | SEA LIFE Orlando Aquarium (visitsealife.com)].

#### **Pre-sorting into smaller groups**

Please have your group pre-sorted into groups no bigger than 20-25 children and make sure each group knows where to go for their lunch if applicable. During the day of your visit, please stay in your smaller groups as it will be easier to enjoy the attraction.

#### Share your trip plan with students

Let your students know what they should expect on the day of their visit. Talk them through any animals you would like them to watch for and share a layout of the attraction for them.

orlando-map-1600x900.jpg (1600×900) (visitsealife.com)

Please note that #16 (Sub-Aqua Play) is not available. Explain where and when they will have lunch, their required behavior, toilet breaks and when they will be allowed into the aquarium shop to purchase items, plus any other important information. We are a cash-free attraction.

#### What to wear

SEA LIFE is an entirely indoor attraction. We recommend wearing comfy shoes, and if possible, have children wearing unified t-shirts of the same color so that it's easier to keep track of your group...



Parking/Entry

#### **Arrival**

Buses enter from Universal Blvd beside the Element Hotel (yellow arrows) to drop off and pick up at the sidewalk located behind Madame Tussauds (green arrow). All other vehicles may park in the free garage (orange star). Levels 4-7 are free, while the ground lot and levels 2 and 3 are charged per hour.

After lining up your groups, the main entrance is on the opposite side of the building from the parking lot. Lead your groups up the walkway between Madame Tussauds and the parking garage then turn left and proceed to the main entrance.



#### **Directions**

To get the most accurate directions from your mobile device or Google Maps, we suggest using Element Hotel at 8278 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819. This will have your buses enter the correct path to let students off at the sidewalk.



#### Arrival times and check in

All group attendees are required to arrive at the same time (note the check in time on your confirmation or the time given by our booking coordinator). Early or late arrivals will be accommodated to the best of our ability.

When you arrive, please check in with a member of aquarium staff at the check-in desk.

#### Food options and restrictions

Please let students know they will need to leave their lunches in a backpack or bag at our entrance while inside the aquarium. School groups are not permitted to eat or drink in the aquarium. Eating can be done on the outside lawn of ICON Park. The inside seating is for the exclusive use of patrons of the Wheelhouse Food Court.

#### **Storage**

Only storage for lunches and coolers is available on site.

#### **Aquarium shop**

Items are available to purchase from our aquarium gift shop. Please note, we are a cashless attraction. All purchases can be made with credit or debit cards.

Students may use their own money here (card) but please remember that students must be accompanied by a parent helper when shopping. All purchases must be assisted by a parent helper for primary



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#### Safety and emergency procedures

We ask that children under the age of 13 are supervised by an adult at all times. We highly recommend having 1 adult for every 10 children.

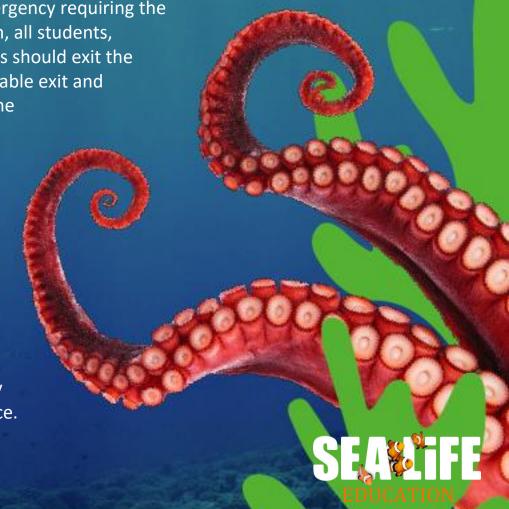
Tell students they can ask for help at the Information Desk or can ask anyone wearing a SEA LIFE Aquarium name badge or uniform for assistance. If a student gets lost, they should go back to the Main Entrance. On arrival show your students where they should go if they get lost.

If a student gets injured, ask anyone wearing an aquarium name badge to call for assistance and an aquarium officer will report 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. When you arrive, please check in with a member of aquarium staff at the check-in desk.

#### **Staff**

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are available throughout the center should you have any questions or need assistance.



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#### **Notes for parent helpers**

As a parent helper, you are responsible for the behavior and safety of the students and will shape each student's learning experience during their visit.

To ensure everyone has a great day out at SEA LIFE, please ensure children in your care are following these rules inside the aquarium:

- Stay with your group at all times inside the aquarium.
- Be courteous and respectful of other visitors running, yelling and climbing are not permitted.
- Be respectful of aquarium exhibits and the building use notebooks to write on (no writing on walls, exhibit labels or windows!) and no climbing on exhibits or rails.
- Help care for our animals by touching the animals in the rock pool gently after rinsing hands and when invited to do so. Please no tapping on the windows of habitats as this disturbs the animals.
- Keep food, drink, and gum outside the aquarium.
   School groups are not permitted to eat or drink inside the aquarium.
- If permitted, stay with parent helpers when shopping for souvenirs in the aquarium store.



# **Planning Checklist**

#### Let's make sure!

- Check booking confirmation is correct (date, time of arrival and entry). If early entry is offered, please confirm with booking coordinator. Let the coordinator know of any buses that will need parking on site.
- Payment made 14 days in advance or confirm to pay by card/check on site.
- Use educational materials provided in the classroom (pre-visit lesson plans) and collate anything you would like to use with students during your aquarium visit
- Assign students in groups of ten to your parent helpers with a name badge that identifies them and their group (e.g. Sharks, Turtles, or colors)
- Discuss behavior expectations with students and parent helpers.
- Final number of children confirmed for visit
- Confirm transportation arrangements
- Check arrival location (if arriving by bus)
- Communicate lunch plans

Running late? Please contact our Manager on

Duty to let them know! (407) 765-6418



