

● ● ● ● ● ➤ BE SURE TO READ THIS WELL IN ADVANCE OF YOUR VISIT TO THE AQUARIUM

Pre-Visit Checklist

Prior to your visit

Plan for payment. When you arrive at the Aquarium, you will be expected to make one payment for the entire group. Please collect money and any chaperone memberships from your group prior to checking in. Memberships may be used only if shown at time of arrival, and can be used for chaperones, parents or volunteers in the group.

Contact Vinci Parking (604.684.6634) to see if you qualify for free bus parking while visiting the Aquarium.

Once you've arrived at the Aquarium

Find parking. The bus area in front of the Aquarium is for DROP-OFF only. Buses will be ticketed if they park in this area. Bus parking is available at Brockton Oval (turn right just after dropping off students).

Pay for parking (unless you qualify for free parking – see above). The Vancouver Parks and Recreation Board has implemented pay parking throughout Stanley Park: \$4.00 per day (October 1 to March 31) and \$8.00 per day (April 1 to September 30). Ticket dispensers accept nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies, \$2 coins and major credit cards. Rates in effect 6:00 am to 9:00 pm daily. Yellow school buses are exempt from paying for parking.

Go to the main entrance. Have a group leader check in at the membership desk (at left) while the rest of the group gets organized outside.

Pay for the group. Payment can be made by either cash, major credit card, or money order, made payable to the Vancouver Aquarium. Discount coupons cannot be used with group rates.

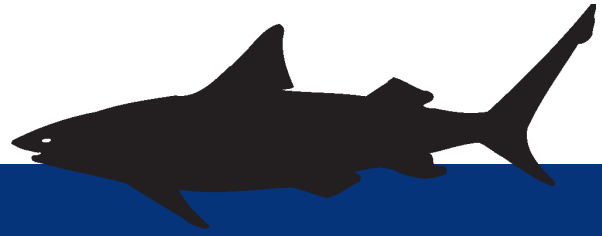
Memberships are applicable to Self-guided participants; parent chaperones/ volunteers joining the group can use their membership cards. Please notify the Admissions staff upon arrival.

A couple of notes

We are unfortunately unable to provide storage space for personal items. We ask all groups to leave coats, lunches and other personal items on the bus, or to carry them in a backpack while touring the galleries.

For the safety of the animals, there is no food or drink allowed outside our designated eating area. There are concession stands and picnic areas close to the Aquarium, as well as a cafeteria within a short walk.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We hope you enjoy your day at the Vancouver Aquarium.



● ● ● ● ● ● ➤ REVIEW WITH STUDENTS AND PHOTOCOPY FOR PARENT HELPERS

Important Guidelines for Behaviour at the Aquarium

Remember the Other Visitors

Always walk

Use quiet voices when talking

Wait patiently for your turn to look into an exhibit and allow others their turn as well

Respect Animals of All Shapes and Sizes

Keep arms/hands, coins, food and other items out of exhibits; nothing should ever be given to an animal or placed in or near an exhibit

Fish are very sensitive to vibrations, so please DO NOT tap on exhibit glass or disturb the animals in any way

Only touch an Aquarium animal if specifically instructed to do so by an Aquarium staff member or an Aquarium volunteer

Stay Together At All Times

Students must stay with their chaperones at all times — when they are in the galleries AND while watching shows/presentations

During Shows and Presentations

Respect other audience members, listen quietly please

Watch the show from the seating area — keep the front glass clear so that others also have a clear view

Gift Shops and Cafés

Students must always be supervised by an adult in these locations

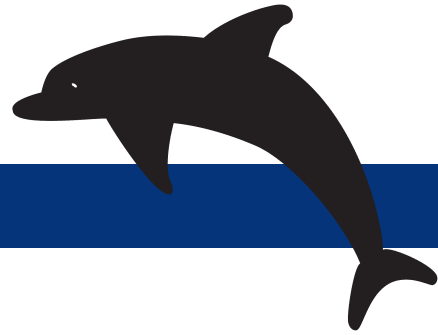
Number of students in the gift shops may be limited at any one time

Only food purchased at the cafés may be eaten on the premises

Any food purchased must be eaten at the tables and chairs provided at that café

We will ask any groups not following the above guidelines to leave the Aquarium out of consideration for our other guests, and to preserve the health and safety of the animals in our care.

Please take responsibility for the conduct of your students while they are visiting the Aquarium, by making sure that your students and chaperones understand the behaviour required during their visit. It will make a happy day for all the animals and visitors!



● ● ● ● ● ● ➤ PHOTOCOPY AND GIVE TO PARENT HELPERS

Chaperone's Tip Sheet

Thank you for being involved in your child's education. You are a very important part of making a field trip to the Vancouver Aquarium a success. The information on this sheet will help you guide your group through the galleries making your visit a fun, memorable and educationally rewarding experience.

Your Role as Chaperone

Children are excited and fascinated by the Aquarium's displays and animals. They can easily get overwhelmed and run between the exhibits, spending only a few seconds at each place. The best way to encourage students to learn is to have them focus their attention on one display at a time – reassure them that they will have time to see a variety of wonders during their Aquarium visit.

Before You Set Off, Make Sure You...

- Know your group's meeting place and time
- Make a note of the scheduled Interpretive presentations when you enter (for example, marine mammal shows or shark dives)
- Collect your group, count students, and identify yourself as the leader

Aquarium Rules

As a chaperone, you are responsible for making sure that your group follows the Aquarium's rules. Our rules are simple and designed to promote safety and increase your enjoyment of our facilities. Please review our rules with your group and make sure that they know what is expected of them (See handout #2).

You are also responsible for the well-being of all students in your charge. Please make sure that you and your group remain together at all times while you are at the Aquarium (during shows, presentations, and while walking through the galleries).



● ● ● ● ● ● ➤ PHOTOCOPY AND GIVE TO PARENT HELPERS

Making Learning Fun

Students learn best during an Aquarium visit when in small groups, led by a chaperone, and encouraged on their journey to observe and ask questions. If you don't know the answers to their questions, don't be afraid to say so: "I don't know – how can we find out?"

Look for answers

- ☒ Write the questions down for further research in the classroom after their Aquarium visit.
- ☒ Ask an Aquarium interpreter or volunteer — look for red shirts, red caps and friendly faces!
- ☒ Have the students answer their own questions by carefully observing animals in the exhibits, reading labels, graphic panels or touch screens, or asking each other for answers.

Stimulate learning

Give students a little bit of structure, some free choice, and some responsibility.

Ask open-ended questions

- ☒ "Are there a lot of different species living in this exhibit?"
- ☒ "Where would you find these animals in the wild?"
- ☒ "Can you describe how that animal has camouflaged itself?"

"Adopt" an animal for three minutes and observe it

- ☒ How did the animal interact with other animals or objects in the habitat?
- ☒ Note any unusual body structures or adaptations in the animals – what function might they have? (eg: the ridge on the back of a beluga)
- ☒ Have the students compare notes. Were they surprised by anything?

Remember, a field trip is a social event!

Make sure students know the rules of good behaviour and respect, but encourage them to chat and listen to one another, and bounce information back and forth.

For additional suggestions and templates for self-guided activities, visit:
www.vanaqua.org/education/LessonPlansforSelfDirectedVisits.html

● ● ● ● ● ● ➔ PHOTOCOPY, ENLARGE, COLOUR, OR USE AS LABELS

