



## OdySea Aquarium Field Trips

Hello! I would like to take a moment to introduce myself and my team. My name is Lisa Ristuccia. I am the Education Manager at OdySea Aquarium. My Education Specialists Matt, Cadia & Ben, our Animal Care Specialist Assistant Dylan, and I are so happy that you and your students are coming to visit us at OdySea Aquarium!

Have you been to OdySea Aquarium yet? It is such a fun place with so much to learn! We have otters, penguins, sea turtles, stingrays, sea lions, a seal, sharks, and lots of interesting fish and other animals. We also have a Tidal Touch Pool area where students can touch sea anemones, abalone, sea urchins, and more. This is the perfect place to bring your students if you are studying oceans, animals, habitats, life cycles, or conservation. You can also focus on observation and inquiry skills; diversity, adaptations, and behavior; relationships in ecosystems; and the connections between humans and the natural world.

Field trips to OdySea Aquarium are self-guided, but education specialists, animal care specialists, aquarists, and guest relations representatives are available throughout the aquarium to give additional information, answer questions, and help you learn about the unique species within the aquarium. Self-guided tours take approximately 2 ½ hours. The aquarium is two levels, so we recommend spending about an hour per level.

### **Contact Us**

You can visit our website at [www.odyseaaquarium.com](http://www.odyseaaquarium.com)

You can submit your field trip request at <http://www.odyseaaquarium.com/field-trips-school-groups/>

You can also send us an email at [Education@OdySeaAquarium.com](mailto:Education@OdySeaAquarium.com) or [LRistuccia@OdySeaAquarium.com](mailto:LRistuccia@OdySeaAquarium.com)

Or call us at 480-291-8195 (Lisa) or 480-291-8245 (Matt, Ben & Cadia).

### **Pricing**

Good news! We just got approval from our management to reduce the student field trip admission from \$18.00 to \$14.95! (The normal admission price is \$24.95 for ages 3-12 & \$29.95 for ages 13-17.) Ticket for adults who are accompanying field trip groups are \$25.00. (The normal adult admission is \$34.95.) Please note that there is a 7.95% tax on the total which makes the student cost \$16.14 each and adults \$26.99 each.

### **Ratios**

We require a 1:5 chaperone to student ratio for Preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 1:10 chaperone to student ratio for 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. If necessary, with prior authorization, we will make reasonable accommodations to the ratios for students with special needs. Chaperones within the required ratios are admitted at no cost. These included chaperones need to be teachers, aides, and school staff. You may also bring parents as chaperones to meet the ratios. Additional parents above the ratios are welcome to join your group, but must pay the discounted adult rate of \$25 plus tax (total of \$26.99) each.

## **Invoicing & Payment**

Michele Plumb is in charge of invoicing. You can call her at 480-291-8246 or email her at [MPlumb@OdySeaAquarium.com](mailto:MPlumb@OdySeaAquarium.com)

Schools should secure a Purchase Order at least two weeks prior to their field trip date. We can send you a W-9 if we are not registered as a vendor with your district yet.

You may also pay by credit card, school check, or cash.

- Please note that if you prepay, we cannot issue refunds for dropped numbers or other discounts.

All money should be collected from students and additional adults, so that one combined payment can be made to OdySea Aquarium.

The main chaperone will go to the ticketing counter upon arrival to give final numbers, make payment, and get the wristbands.

## **Lunch Options**

We do not allow outside food inside the aquarium and we do not have a place to store lunches. The layout of the aquarium does not allow for re-entry, so please plan your field trip accordingly. You may bring sack lunches, leave them in the bus, and then eat the lunches in the courtyard after. There are also nice parks within a couple miles where the students can eat their lunches and play.

We do have a pre-order Boxed Lunch option in our café as well. The lunch options are Ham & Cheese; Turkey & Cheese; PB & J; or a Salad. All Box Lunches come with a small bottle of water, a small bag of chips, applesauce, and a cookie. The cost is \$6.48 plus tax for a total of \$7 each. Lunches must be ordered a week ahead of time and cannot be cancelled or changed within 5 days of your visit. There is a minimum order of 25 lunches for the Boxed Lunch option.

The Lighthouse Café is located on the upper level of OdySea Aquarium. Small groups may choose to purchase lunch at the Café. Be aware that lines may be long and the wait may impact how much of the aquarium your students are able to see during your visit. Larger groups may preorder from the Café. Please remember that there is a 7.95% tax on the total. For large group preorders, please collect all money from students and adults and make one payment to the Café.

## **OdySea in the Desert**

OdySea Aquarium is part of the OdySea in the Desert complex. Before or after your field trip you may visit the many restaurants, shops, and attractions in OdySea in the Desert. The restaurants and food options include Opa Life Greek Café, Johnny Rockets, El Encanto, Humble Pie, Modern Grove Views, Docktails Beach House Café, Frozen Penguin Ice Cream, Nekter Juice Bar, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, and a snack bar. Frozen Penguin Ice Cream has a special deal for school groups. The Kakery & Coffee Place, IT'SUGAR candy store, and Polar Play Ice Bar will be opening soon. Attractions within OdySea in the Desert include Butterfly Wonderland, Mirror Maze, Dolphinaris, and Carousel Arcade. Retail shops include OdySea Treasures Gift Shop, Arizona Territory Trading Post, and Arizona Four Peaks Mining Company. There is also Vitality Aqua Massage & Oxygen Bar.

## **Overview of the Layout and Exhibits of OdySea Aquarium**

\*\*\* Please note that exhibits and schedules are subject to change \*\*\*\*

Your tour of the aquarium will start in the lobby where you will see nine globe-shaped aquariums suspended from the ceiling. These suspended aquariums weigh over 1,000 pounds each and are filled with different species of African cichlids. Your group will then follow the journey of a drop of water as you ascend up the escalator into the fresh water gallery where you will see turtles, piranhas, eels, bass, trout, crocodiles, paddlefish, alligator gar, catfish, mata mata turtles, black pacus, stingrays, and unicorn fish.

We have just added new exhibits in March! We now have Blue Death-Feigning Beetles, a Chilean Rose-Hair Tarantula, Giant African Millipedes, and Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches. Aquatic additions are the Axolotl (Mexican Salamander), Mexican Blind Cave Tetra, Boseman's Rainbowfish, Australian Rainbowfish, and Butterfly Hillstream Loach.

Everyone loves Squidney, our two-toed sloth! We just built her a new home on the upper level of the aquarium. She sleeps 21-22 hours a day so there is a good chance that she will be sleeping. She is one of our ambassador animals so if she is not in her habitat, she is with one of the animal care specialists as she does meet & greets with the guests.

Our birds have a new habitat as well. You will see our keel-billed toucans, Lucy & Ricky. You will also see one or more of our ambassador birds: Calypso (blue & gold macaw), Angel (green-wing macaw), Nigel (greater sulfur-crested cockatoo), and/or Piper (eclectus parrot).

The students will fall in love with our adorable Asian small-clawed otters. Three of the otters (Peanut, Pepper and Gizmo) were hand-raised by our staff in their home before the aquarium was open. The students will then have the hands-on experience of touching the sea anemones, abalone, and sea urchins in the Tidal Touch Pool area. Students can go to the Sea TREK area where they can touch the cow-nosed stingrays while they learn about the science of the Sea TREK helmets, compressed air and pneumatic power.

Next, students will see our African Black-Footed Penguins, which can be seen through two different exhibit windows, and a few tunnel windows. The penguins are so cute! Unfortunately, African Black-Footed Penguins are endangered. We partner with the non-profit SANCCOB in South Africa to help rescue and rehabilitate the coastal sea birds.

Across from the penguins is a display where students can learn about the ingredients from the ocean that are in products they eat or use in their daily lives. We also have a giant Lite Brite where students can make designs, a coloring station, and a water table where students can adjust the flow and direction of the water.

Your group will then take the deep sea escalator where scalloped hammerheads, bonnethead sharks, black-nosed sharks, and spotted eagle rays will swim overhead. This will lead you to our Bizarre & Beautiful area where you will see the ancient nautilus, a giant Pacific octopus, scorpion fish, eels, crabs, and lionfish.

We recently added new exhibits to this area as well. You will see pipefish, yellowline arrow crabs, anglerfish, cockatoo waspfish, and dwarf lionfish. You will also see the very unique walking bat fish and the longhorn cowfish.

The movie in the 3D Theater will teach the students about whale sharks and the use of the bubble-net hunting technique. (The 3D movie is included in the admission price, but depending on your timing, the size of your group, and how busy the aquarium is, you might want to bypass the 3D movie. Please note that during some special event days, the 3D movie might not be showing.) After leaving the 3D Theater, you can try to find Nemo in our exhibit of hundreds of clown fish and then visit the pufferfish who looks so cute with his four teeth.

You will be surrounded by a vast variety of fish as you go through the Great Barrier Reef tunnel. After you walk through the tunnel, search for the sea horses with their prehensile tails. The green moray eel awaits you at the next exhibit. You might need to search carefully, because he likes to hide.

You definitely don't want to miss The Living Sea Carousel! It is our signature exhibit. You and your students will board one of pods with theater style seating. Your pod will rotate you to four different exhibits – the giant Hawaiian broad rays, a SeaTREK diver, and a giant grouper; our rescued sea turtles; our sea lions and seal; and finally our sharks! There are five types of sharks in the Living Sea Carousel: Lemon Sharks, Sand Bar Sharks, Sand Tiger Sharks, Black Tip Reef Sharks, and Nurse Sharks.

After The Living Sea Carousel, you will finish your tour of the aquarium by visiting the Blue Blubber Jellies, Moon Jellies, and our Ocean Art exhibit.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Will we see the dolphins?** No, OdySea Aquarium does not have dolphins. The dolphins are part of Dolphinaris which is a completely different company with a separate admission.

**Can we use the bathrooms in the lobby where we can see the sharks?** No, unfortunately we cannot allow groups to visit the bathroom in the lobby because of fire marshal maximum occupancy regulations for the lobby. There are only a few stalls in the lobby restrooms and we cannot have the extra students and chaperones in the lobby. The layout of the aquarium does not allow for the groups to visit the lobby after they begin. The sharks are viewable from three other areas at the aquarium – in the Living Sea Carousel, and two viewing areas outside of the Living Sea Carousel. Bathrooms are available in the Café area and outside the 3D theater. There are also restrooms outside in the courtyard area by the escalators.

## **Title One Schools**

Unfortunately, there are no further discounts for Title One schools. Title One schools must pay the same as other schools: \$14.95 per student and \$25 for adults. OdySea Aquarium Foundation does offer a limited number of scholarships. The scholarships for 2017 have already been awarded. You may submit an online application for 2018.

You can also check into other funding sources such as a Target Field Trip Grant, Tax-Credit Donations, or fundraisers.

## **Additional Curriculum Resources**

We are in the process of adding curriculum resources to our website. Please check the website in the near future to download the resources and lesson plans.

## **Further Questions?**

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Lisa, Matt, Ben & Cadia: [Education@odyseaaquarium.com](mailto:Education@odyseaaquarium.com)

Lisa: [lrstuccia@odyseaaquarium.com](mailto:lrstuccia@odyseaaquarium.com)

Michele: [mplumb@odyseaaquarium.com](mailto:mplumb@odyseaaquarium.com)

Phone: 480-291-8245 (Matt, Ben & Cadia)

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**We look forward to your visit!**