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From Seattle: Point Defiance Park & Zoo Private Day Trip

5 hrs 30 min · Private · from Seattle

Check availability & book online »



At a glance

Start	6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 9:00 AM
Duration	5 hrs 30 min
Pickup	Pickup is included from the listed pickup points — choose yours when you book. Pickup is up to 45 minutes before the start time; we confirm your exact pickup time before the tour.
Cancellation	Free cancellation up to 24 hours before the tour starts.

Itinerary

>

Start

Seattle
Starts at 6:30 AM, 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM · pickup up to 45 min earlier

1

Scenic Drive Northeast

Board your comfortable, climate-controlled vehicle in downtown Seattle and head south as your scenic journey begins. Sit back and relax while enjoying a beautifully narrated drive highlighting the region's deep maritime heritage, Indigenous history, and unique Pacific Northwest ecology. Keep your camera ready — as you transition away from the urban skyline, sweeping marine vistas of Puget Sound unfold alongside you, with the snow-capped peak of Mount Rainier towering majestically in the distance on clear days. This relaxing, panoramic drive sets the perfect tone for your day of coastal exploration.

2

Point Defiance Park

Arrive at the crown jewel of the South Puget Sound. Spanning 760 acres, this stunning urban oasis is renowned for its majestic old-growth forests of 450-year-old Douglas firs, rugged beaches, and meticulously manicured gardens. Your exploration begins with a peaceful guided stroll through the vibrant Rose, Fuchsia, and Rhododendron gardens, where over 1,500 rose bushes bloom in seasonal splendor. From there, enjoy a narrated walk or cycle along the iconic Five Mile Drive, pausing at breathtaking clifftop viewpoints overlooking Vashon Island, Gig Harbor, and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. To top off your immersion in local nature, take a casual stroll down to the pristine shores of Owen Beach and keep your eyes peeled for harbor seals, bald eagles, and sea lions swimming in the sound.

3

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Step inside the Pacific Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, beautifully situated within the lush grounds of Point Defiance Park. This world-class facility uniquely pairs a remarkable collection of Pacific Rim wildlife with stunning immersive underwater exhibits. Follow your guide through the Asian Forest Sanctuary to spot endangered Sumatran tigers, clouded leopards prowling through the trees, and white-cheeked gibbons swinging through a lush bamboo forest. Afterward, dive into the Pacific Seas Aquarium to stand face-to-face with scalloped hammerhead sharks, spotted eagle rays, and green sea turtles gliding overhead in a massive 280,000-gallon tank — plus a giant Pacific octopus hiding in the depths. An unforgettable, up-close encounter with global and local wildlife that highlights the beauty of ocean conservation.

4

Point Ruston, 5020 Main St

Head just outside the park boundaries to Point Ruston, Tacoma's premier waterfront resort-inspired village nestled along the shores of Commencement Bay. Take a casual stroll along the beautifully paved Waterwalk, a scenic one-mile marine path featuring colorful tile mosaics of native Pacific Northwest marine life and 28 pieces of public art, all with continuous panoramic views of Commencement Bay, the Olympic Mountains, and Mount Rainier on clear days. When it's time to eat, your guide will provide a curated list of excellent local eateries ranging from fresh Pacific Northwest seafood at Duke's Seafood

and Harbor Lights to casual bistro fare at WildFin American Grill — all with stunning waterfront views. Please note that all food and drinks during this stop are at your own expense and are not included in the tour price.

5

Tacoma Narrows Bridge

Conclude your day of exploration with a dedicated stop at a scenic vista overlook to admire and photograph the iconic Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Stand in awe of the twin suspension spans stretching across the Puget Sound while your guide shares the dramatic, world-famous engineering story of the original 1940 bridge — affectionately nicknamed "Galloping Gertie" — which opened on July 1, 1940, and collapsed just four months later on November 7, 1940, in a 42-mph windstorm that sent the entire main span crashing into Puget Sound below. This spectacular failure forever changed how engineers design suspension bridges worldwide and remains one of the most studied engineering disasters in history. A fascinating mix of history and sweeping maritime views — the perfect final photo opportunity to conclude an unforgettable day of South Puget Sound exploration.

6

Seattle

Sit back and relax as your comfortable ride back to Seattle begins. Take a moment to reflect on an incredible day — stunning parks, amazing wildlife, beautiful waterfront views, and fascinating bridge history — as the familiar Seattle skyline comes back into view, bringing your South Puget Sound adventure to a perfect close.

o

Drop-off

Back in Seattle
About 5 hrs 30 min in total

For reference only – the order and timings can change on the day. Your confirmed details come with your booking.

What’s included

+ Expert guide
+ Bottled water
+ Private transportation
+ Air-conditioned vehicle
+ Pick-up and drop-off

Not included

- Foods & drinks
- Tips & Gratuities

Know before you go

- Public transportation is nearby

- Infant seats available

Custom pickup & drop-off

We can arrange a custom pickup and drop-off location. Pickup and drop-off at most downtown hotels and the cruise terminal are free. Pickup or drop-off at the airport, or outside the city limits, costs extra – contact us to arrange airport pickup and drop-off.

Contact us for airport pickup »

Rated 4.6 out of 5 by 795 travelers **Read reviews ›**

Ready to book?

Pick your date online: theatlantictours.com/tour/seattle-point-defiance-park-zoo-private-day-trip/

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