Helpful Hints for a Successful Field Trip to Turtle Bay Exploration Park

A field trip to Turtle Bay Exploration Park is a great idea! There are many things to explore within our 300 acres. Many school groups who come to the Park participate in an Exploration Class, but teachers are also welcome to plan their own independent exploration. If you plan on doing Independent Exploration during your trip, here are some tips for helping them (and you!) have a successful and meaningful visit to Turtle Bay.

Use the pass! Teachers that schedule a field trip can come in free of charge prior to their field trip. You’ll make better use of your time and experience fewer hiccups during your field trip if you have a plan. All you need to do is show your field trip confirmation form at the admissions desk.

Less might be more. Don’t try to show your class the whole Park during your visit! Choose a few things to really enjoy with your students and encourage them to return to experience more at another time. From the aquariums, travelling exhibitions, Botanical Gardens, Paul Bunyan’s Forest Camp and more, Turtle Bay has a lot to offer!

Engage your students. Find a few things that you want your students to see and include a few engagement activities. Be sure to bring pencils, paper, and clipboards if you need them for your activities.

Don’t forget the before and after. Prepare your students for a visit to a museum and give them a way to reflect on their experience afterward. Review our Museum Manners with your students prior to their trip so they understand their behavioral expectations.

You probably came up with a few more ideas as you read through our suggestions. By keeping your students’ needs in mind and doing a little bit of thoughtful planning, you can make your field trip to Turtle Bay one of the highlights of your school year.

The following Museum Visit Planning Guide can help you plan your visit. Bring it with you when you visit the Park for your preview. On the first page jot down ideas as they occur to you and use the second page to create your plan.

We’re looking forward to seeing you soon and hope you have a wonder-full time!
Things to keep in mind as I look
Objectives of our visit, logistical details, checking in, etc.

Exhibits that grab me
Note the location

Activity ideas
How might I engage my students with this exhibit?

Mapping our route
Devise a logical route for the visit and list the stops in order. Note how to utilize your chaperones and how this can be done in smaller chaperone-led groups.
Objectives: What should happen for my students today?

Remember to bring:

Our itinerary:

Closure
A simple way to engage your students during your field trip could be a Park-wide scavenger hunt. You can customize this list for your field trip, or have your students create bingo cards.

- Bark house
- Beehive
- LEGO spider
- Elliot redwood log
- An old artifact
- Something that is alive in the Museum
- Model of the Sundial Bridge
- A taxidermy animal
- Western pond turtle
- The Sundial Bridge
- Beaver lodge
- Model of the Shasta Dam
- An artifact larger than you
- Animal tracks
- Bird
- Mammal
- Reptile
- A fishing tool
- An old forestry tool
- A tool that scientists use
- Map
- Stalactites
- A mining tool
- An old object that is still used today
- Material that was used to construct the Sundial Bridge