

GEORGIA AQUARIUM

225 Baker St. NW Atlanta, GA 30313

Georgia Aquarium is open **365 days a year**. Hours of operation vary by season. Visit georgiaaquarium.org or call (404) 581-4000 for daily schedules.

Georgia Aquarium is one of the world's largest and most captivating aquariums. It features one of the largest single aquatic habitats and one of the most abundant collections of aquatic life in the world. A 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization, Georgia Aquarium is dedicated to global leadership in research and conservation of aquatic animals around the world. Since its founding, Georgia Aquarium has been committed to educating and inspiring current and future generations through the respectful display of marine mammals and many other aquatic species. Aquarium staff, volunteers and partners are positively impacting the future of our planet by instilling in guests an appreciation for these extraordinary animals and empowering them to become advocates on their behalf. The seven distinct galleries and more than 100 exhibits within Georgia Aquarium represent aquatic environments ranging from arctic to tropical waters and feature one of the most diverse assortments of aquatic animals anywhere.



Galleries

Georgia Aquarium contains **seven** distinct galleries:



- [Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot](#) is the largest exhibit and represents our one world ocean. The habitat holds 6.3 million gallons of water and features whale sharks – the largest fish in the world – and the only manta rays in a U.S. aquarium.

- [Georgia-Pacific Cold Water Quest](#) features animals from arctic regions and temperate seas, including beluga whales, harbor seals, southern sea otters and African penguins.



- [Tropical Diver](#) is home to more than 300 species of fish and other aquatic animals representing Indo-Pacific reef ecosystems. The Pacific Barrier Reef habitat is one of the largest living reef exhibits in the United States. It contains 164,000 gallons of water, and approximately 25 percent of the reef wall is live coral.
- [Southern Company River Scout](#) is an immersive experience showcasing the diversity of freshwater species around the world. In this gallery, guests walk amidst the waters of our overhead river to discover the incredible variety of animals found in the lakes and rivers of Africa, South America, Asia and right here in Georgia.



- [AT&T Dolphin Tales](#) features an educational presentation that gives guests a close-up look at how we train and care for the incredible dolphins at Georgia Aquarium, and how this helps us protect dolphins in their natural habitat.
- [Aquanaut Adventure: A Discovery Zone](#) is fun for all ages! Guests navigate through a series of interactive activities and challenges to learn about aquatic animals and ecosystems and become a certified Georgia Aquarium Aquanaut.



- [SunTrust Pier 225](#) is our gallery featuring the charismatic California sea lion. These playful pinnipeds and their dedicated trainers teach guests all about sea lions and how we care for them at Georgia Aquarium. This educational experience gives guests the chance to see a training session firsthand while they learn about sea lion conservation and what they can do to help.

Programs

Georgia Aquarium offers several interactive programs that allow guests to get even closer to their favorite aquatic animals! These programs educate guests on Georgia Aquarium animals while inspiring them to participate in conservation efforts.

[Journey with Gentle Giants](#)

[Beluga & Friends Interactive](#)

[Penguin Encounter](#)

[Dolphin Encounter](#)

[Sea Otter Encounter](#)

[Sleepovers](#)

[Behind the Seas Tours](#)



Veterans Immersion Program

Georgia Aquarium is committed to serving the brave men and women who have served our country. As a thank you for their incredible service, Georgia Aquarium launched the Veterans Immersion Program in 2008. This unique program gives military personnel who have been physically, emotionally or mentally wounded, the opportunity to SCUBA dive or swim in the 6.3 million gallon habitat, Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot.

The Veterans Immersion Program is designed to complement current rehabilitation and reintegration programs. Participants challenge themselves with an experience outside their comfort zones, come face to face with some of the ocean's largest creatures and, for some, simply relax and move in the water in ways they may not be able to on land. Since the program's inception, the Aquarium has hosted more than 1,600 military personnel from all over the country.



The program is supported by Georgia Aquarium's dive staff, which has the largest team of Handicapped SCUBA Association Certified Dive Masters and Instructors in the world, all led by a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Georgia Aquarium is honored to provide this healing and awe-inspiring experience to the wounded heroes of our armed forces.

Oceans Ballroom and Event Spaces

Georgia Aquarium's Oceans Ballroom is a 23,000 square-foot event space featuring breathtaking views into the Aquarium's marquee whale shark and beluga habitats. It is an ideal venue for receptions, banquets, conferences, weddings and more. The Ballroom spaces can comfortably fit 600 guests for a meeting setting and up to 1,200 for a reception.

On-site catering is provided by the Aquarium's world-famous exclusive partner, Wolfgang Puck Catering with a variety of premier food and drink options. Wolfgang Puck Catering is dedicated to providing award-winning restaurant-quality cuisine, exceptional service, and creative flair, perfectly matched to the occasion. The catering team will customize a menu to each guest's and event's needs,



using seasonal ingredients that are sustainable and ethically raised. Wolfgang Puck Catering maintains a full-service catering operation on-site and includes a kosher kitchen.

HISTORY

- **November 2001**- Bernie Marcus, co-founder of The Home Depot, and his wife Billi, give a gift of \$250 million through the [Marcus Foundation](#) to build Georgia Aquarium
- **2003** - Coca-Cola generously donates the nine and a half acres on which the Aquarium sits



- **June 2003** — Construction begins on Georgia Aquarium.
- **November 23, 2005** — Bernie Marcus's dream is fulfilled, and the world's largest aquarium at the time opens to the public
- **August 2006** – A.D. "Pete" and Ida Correll gift \$2.5 million to build The Correll Center for Aquatic Animal Health, a state-of-the-art animal care facility within Georgia Aquarium
- **August 2006** – The three millionth guest visits Georgia Aquarium within its first nine months of opening

- **May 2007** – The five millionth guest visits Georgia Aquarium
- **February 2008** – Georgia Aquarium announces the “Journey With Gentle Giants” swim and dive immersion program



- **Spring 2008** – Georgia Aquarium makes a \$1.5 million contribution to establish the Georgia Aquarium Conservation Field Station, a new marine animal rescue and research facility in Marineland, Florida

- **June 2009** – The 10 millionth guest visits Georgia Aquarium.

- **Winter 2010** – Three rescued southern sea otter pups find a home at Georgia Aquarium in the Georgia-Pacific Cold Water Quest gallery

- **January 2011** – The Aquarium acquires the world’s first oceanarium, now known as Marineland Dolphin Adventure, near St. Augustine, Florida



- **April 2011** – AT&T Dolphin Tales, Georgia Aquarium’s \$110 million dolphin exhibit, opens to guests

- **September 24, 2011** – *Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin from Georgia Aquarium* premieres

- **November 2012** – Georgia Aquarium’s volunteer department reaches one million hours of contribution

- **January 2014** – The Georgia-Pacific Penguin Nursery is unveiled to aid in enhancing the Aquarium’s already successful African penguin breeding program



- **April 2014** – The 20 millionth guest visits Georgia Aquarium

- **January 2015** – Georgia Aquarium opens new interactive discovery zone, Aquanaut Adventure

- **Summer 2013** – Georgia Aquarium researchers and Emory University successfully sequence the first full shark genome using DNA from the whale sharks in Georgia Aquarium’s collection

- **Summer 2015** – Georgia Aquarium concludes its 11th year with the Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) and researchers discover a major link between human health, dolphin health, and the health of our oceans

- **November 23, 2015** – Georgia Aquarium kicks off its year-long 10th anniversary celebration

- **March 2016** – SunTrust Pier 225, Georgia Aquarium’s \$40 million California sea lion exhibit, opens to guests

- **March 2016** – A new, educational dolphin presentation, AT&T Dolphin Celebration replaces the original show in the AT&T Dolphin Tales theater

- **March 2016** – Georgia Aquarium’s 4D Funbelievable Theater reopens following renovations with a screening of “Happy Feet”



Awards & Honors Highlights

- 2005-2006 Guinness World Record for world’s largest aquarium, in water volume and number of animals and exhibits
- 2006 Grey Worldwide Award – Mountain View Group “Speechless Man & Woman”
- 2006-2007 Venue of the Year – Phoenix Awards by Georgia Chapter of Meeting Professionals International (GaMPI)
- 2007 Technology Association of Georgia Excalibur Award for Creativity
- 2009 1st Place International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA) for Behavioral Training
- 2009 1st Place International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA) for People’s Choice
- 2010 Georgia Water Wise Council Fox McCarthy Water Wise Award
- 2010 Atlanta Business Chronicle Deal of the Decade
- 2011 Associations of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Excellence in Marketing Award for “Where Imaginations Go To Play”
- 2012 The Georgia Voice Best Place To Take Out of Town Guests
- 2012 Telly Award for Commercial Video – Ames Scullin O’Haire “Show Biz Fever”
- 2012 Telly Award for Commercial Video – Ames Scullin O’Haire “Brand Refresh”
- 2012 Telly Award for Outstanding TV Program in Education – *Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin from Georgia Aquarium*
- 2013 Telly Award for Commercial Video – Ames Scullin O’Haire “Something Magical”
- 2013 Georgia Teacher of the Year – Platinum Sponsor
- 2014 Telly Award for Outstanding TV Program in Nature/Wildlife – *Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin from Georgia Aquarium*
- 2014 Telly Award for Outstanding TV Program in Education – *Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin from Georgia Aquarium*
- 2014 Telly Award – Georgia Aquarium Audio Visual
- 2014 American Marketing Association Atlanta AMY Award for What’s Up Interactive – Web & Interactive Marketing, Social Media Campaign “Pin the Names on the Penguins”
- 2014 TripAdvisor Travelers’ Choice Award
- 2014 Emmy Award for Outstanding Travel Program – *Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin from Georgia Aquarium*
- 2014 Emmy Award for Outstanding Directing in a Lifestyle/Culinary/Travel Program – *Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin from Georgia Aquarium*
- 2014 USA Today and 10Best Readers’ Choice – *Best North American Aquarium*



- 2015 Georgia Teacher of the Year – Platinum Sponsor
- 2015 Parent’s Choice Award for Television – *Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin from Georgia Aquarium*
- 2015 Top 5 Animal Attraction – FamilyFun Magazine Travel Awards

FamilyFun



- 2015 Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Lifestyle/Travel/Children’s Series Host – Jeff Corwin for *Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin from Georgia Aquarium*
- 2015 TripAdvisor Traveler’s Choice Awards – No. 1 aquarium in the U.S.
- 2015 TripAdvisor Traveler’s Choice Awards – No. 2 aquarium in the world
- 2015 Best Tourist Spot for Locals – Creative Loafing’s Best of ATL
- 2015 Most Instagrammed Place in Georgia – TIME Magazine

TIME



To learn more please visit georgiaaquarium.org or read our blog at georgiaaquariumblog.org

For press releases, videos, photos, and more, please visit our Newsroom at <http://news.georgiaaquarium.org>

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