

press release

Marine Life Park launches dolphin interaction programmes on 30 September 2013

10 underprivileged children first to meet Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins

SINGAPORE, 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 – Resounding cheers and gleaming smiles abound at the Marine Life Park today as 10 children were welcomed as the first guests of its dolphin interaction programme.

These children, aged between 8 and 12 years old, enjoyed an up-close experience with the park's Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphins as part of a special preview for underprivileged children from The Little Arts Academy (小小艺术学院).

Donning wet suits and enthusiastic attitudes, these children waded in waist-deep waters to meet dolphins for the very first time. In the ***Dolphin Discovery*** programme, the children got to interact with the inquisitive marine mammal, and learnt about physiological aspects of the dolphins, their diet, and other fun facts under the guidance of our friendly and professional trainers.

Richelle Ho, 11, a student from The Little Arts Academy, said: "This was an unforgettable experience. I never imagined myself coming so close to a dolphin. Hui Hui was very friendly and Eliza taught me so much about them. It was so much fun and I want to do this again!"

Ms. Aminah Hussien, Centre Director for The Little Arts Academy added, "This session provided a great learning opportunity for the children, and they enjoyed themselves. We are glad that they got this opportunity to meet these fascinating animals at close proximity, without having to travel beyond our shores."

Mr. Roger Lienhard, Senior Vice President of Attractions at Resorts World Sentosa said, "The experience is designed to inspire guests to appreciate our oceans, and do their part for marine conservation. Our animal ambassadors will continue to provide excellent education opportunities for the thousands of students who pass through our doors at Marine Life Park."

Dolphin Island's interaction programmes are the latest marine encounters offered at the Marine Life Park. ***Dolphin Discovery***, where participants meet dolphins in waist-deep waters, will open to guests on 30 September 2013. Accompanying friends and family choosing to stay dry can opt for ***Dolphin Observer***, with lagoon-side seating. Non-swimmers will not be left out either in ***Dolphin Trek***, as they descend four metres into the lagoon, walking among dolphins.

For even more up-close interactions swimming alongside the dolphins, ***Dolphin Adventure*** will start before the end of this year, taking guests to the depths of the lagoons.

Outside of Dolphin Island, guests can see these charming dolphins from various vantage points. These include the Grotto and while journeying along the Adventure River at Adventure Cove Waterpark, as well as through the viewing panels at S.E.A. Aquarium.

Since the dolphins' arrival in November last year, trainers at the Marine Life Park have provided the best care for these animals. Our specialists have also been tracking daily information gathered from the dolphins' social behaviours, food intake as well as an array of animal health examinations. These data will aid in future education, conservation and research projects.

Dr. Alfonso Lopez, Chief Veterinarian of Marine Life Park said, "At Marine Life Park, the well-being of all our animals is our utmost priority. Our dolphins have adapted well to their habitat under the care of our dedicated animal health team. The trainers also vary their routine constantly while ensuring that our animals have enough exercise, mental stimulation, enrichment activities as well as social time with the trainers and with each other."

More information on the dolphin interaction programmes are appended in [Annex A](#).

RWS INVITES members will enjoy a special preview period prior to the launch. Limited interaction slots are available each day and guests may start making reservation online via www.rwsentosa.com or through our hotline +65 6577 8888 starting tomorrow, subject to session availability. They may also make prior reservation on-site at guest services counters in Adventure Cove Waterpark. More information can also be found on the Marine Life Park Blog, www.mlp.rwsentosablog.com.

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ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

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Resorts World Sentosa is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group. For more information, please visit www.rwsentosa.com.

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The children from Little Arts Academy learning more about the dolphins' anatomy from our professional trainers



The children got to try feeding a dolphin as they learn about their diets from the marine mammal trainer.



Richelle Ho, 11, gets a kiss from the dolphin during the interaction



Guests will get up-close to our Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphin, and even get kissed, while learning more about them in the ***Dolphin Discovery*** interaction programme.



Friends and family accompanying *Dolphin Discovery* participants can enjoy the session from the lagoon side while learning more from our hosts with ***Dolphin Observer***.



Marine mammal trainers at Dolphin Island use a computerised system to record information of the Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphins, which will aid in education, conservation and research efforts.



A marine mammal veterinarian and trainer conducting an ultrasound check on one of the Indo-pacific bottlenose dolphins at Dolphin Island.





1. **Dolphin Discovery (海豚探索)**

Dolphin Discovery is a shallow water dolphin interaction programme catered for all ages, including non-swimmers. After an orientation, guests will head over to the lagoons where our dolphin trainers will guide them through a 30-minute, up-close and personal dolphin encounter. Wading in waist-deep waters, *Dolphin Discovery* provides an up-close interaction with dolphins that's totally unique and personal. Guests will be amazed at how friendly our dolphins are, and how quickly they warm up to them. They will also get to learn facts about dolphins, making this an engaging and interesting marine lesson.

Requirements: Guests must be at least 122cm in height to participate

Duration: Up to 90 minutes (30 minutes in-water)

Price: S\$198 (Adults); S\$188 (Child/Senior)

Session Timings: 10.20am, 1.00pm, 3.00pm, 5.00pm (maximum five guests per group; maximum four groups per session)

2. **Dolphin Observer (海豚望角)**

Dolphin Observer is an exclusive programme catering only to the families and friends of participants in *Dolphin Discovery*. Guests will enjoy a great view of the interaction and drinks will also be served after the session in the pavilion area. They will get to learn all about the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins in an orientation filled with interesting facts on these lovable marine mammals, and our hosts will also be on hand to answer any questions on dolphins or their behaviour.

Price: S\$68 (Adult); S\$58 (Child/Senior)

3. **Dolphin Trek (海豚同行) – First in Asia**

In this underwater programme, guests will have the chance to see the world of dolphins from a fish's eye view. Descending four metres deep into the lagoon, participants will trek on the lagoon floor while breathing freely through an underwater helmet. No scuba diving certification is required. Spend time exploring the dolphins' habitat and walking amongst these lovable marine animals. Our marine mammal trainers will also lead the dolphins right up to participants, giving them the experience of a lifetime.

Requirements: Guests must be at least 15 years old to participate

Duration: 80 minutes (20 minutes underwater trek)

Price: S\$248 (Adult); S\$238 (Senior)

Session Timings: 10.20am (two guests per session)

All dolphin interaction programmes include one-day admission to Adventure Cove Waterpark and a set-meal at The Bay Restaurant. Guests are required to arrive at Dolphin Island wearing appropriate swim attire. Wetsuits will be provided for all programmes. A parent or guardian (21 years old and above) must be present to authorize participation for all programme participants who are below 21 years old. Children below 12 years old must be accompanied in the water by a paying adult participant. Maximum accompanying ratio is 2 children to 1 adult.