

press release

Largetooth Sawfish Introduced at S.E.A. Aquarium

SEAA Wonders: Spooky Seas to give Aquarium family-friendly Halloween twist

SINGAPORE, 23 SEPTEMBER 2014 – Resorts World Sentosa is all set to take Halloween celebrations up a notch this October. Besides its signature Halloween Horror Nights event at Universal Studios Singapore, the S.E.A. Aquarium will also roll out *SEAA Wonders: Spooky Seas*, families can soak in the month-long Halloween celebrations and have fun learning more about seemingly scary but often misunderstood marine animals, such as its latest marine resident – the Largetooth Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*). Other highlights include themed Ocean Dreams sleepover programmes, as well as Trick or Treat and Marine Characters' Meet & Greet during the weekends.

The Largetooth Sawfish is listed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of threatened species. Prior to its arrival at the S.E.A. Aquarium's Open Ocean habitat, the sawfish was a decade-long resident at Reef HQ Aquarium in Townsville, Queensland.

"Reef HQ Aquarium was looking to re-house their resident sawfish due to size limitations, and we are privileged to be able to assist. By introducing such rare marine species in our Aquarium that guests may not have seen before, we will be able to raise awareness and inspire our guests to do their part for marine conservation," said Ms Mathilde Richer de Forges, Senior Conservation Manager at the S.E.A. Aquarium.

In 2007, the sawfish was listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). Sawfish faces threats from commercial trade of skin, fins, meat and unique saw-shaped rostrum. Their ova, bile and livers are also used in Chinese medicine, despite a lack of evidence to support their perceived medicinal value.

Throughout October, the Aquarium will be decked out in Halloween-themed décor, from special skeletal diving suits on our divers to special themeing with bones and pumpkins under the sea. Fun and exciting activities have also been lined up, with every child visiting in October receiving a special Spooky Seas Adventure Trail activity sheet. During the weekends (4-6, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26 and 31 Oct), children will get the chance to make their own trick-or-treat pumpkin bags and collect treats along the way, completing tasks in the Adventure Trail. On the same weekends, guests will also Meet & Greet special Halloween sea characters, including the *Mermaid Witch*, *Sea Jelly Spirit*, *Sea Horse Dracula* and more.

S.E.A. Aquarium's popular *Ocean Dreams* sleepover programme will also take on a Halloween twist this October. The *S.E.A.A Wizardry Convention* will come alive in this specially-themed 2D1N programme, as participants explore the depth of the oceans to collect ingredients for their magic potions and get tucked in amidst tales of sea monsters and legends.

For more information on the list of activities lined up for **SEAA Wonders: Spooky Seas**, please refer to Annex A. Guests may also refer to www.rwsentosa.com/SEAAquarium/SEAAWonders for more information and special promotions.

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ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's ultimate destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, the resort opened in January 2010 and welcomed over 45 million visitors in its first three years of opening. RWS is home to two mega attractions - the region's first-and-only Universal Studios theme park and the Marine Life Park, which comprises the S.E.A. Aquarium (one of the world's largest aquariums) and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Other attractions include a Maritime Experiential Museum, an award-winning destination spa, a casino, six unique hotels, the Resorts World Convention Centre, celebrity chef restaurants, and specialty retail outlets. The resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts and public shows such as the Crane Dance and the Lake of Dreams. RWS was named "Best Integrated Resort" in 2011, 2012 and 2013 at the TTG Travel Awards, which recognizes the best of Asia-Pacific's travel industry. RWS is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Resorts World Sentosa

Linette Lin/ Clement Ng

linette.lin@rwsentosa.com /

clement.xjng@rwsentosa.com

Tel: +65 6577 9762 / +65 6577 9761

Mobile: +65 9277 2738 / +65 9815 4490

ATE Integrated Communications (for Resorts World Sentosa)

Debbie Pereira

debbie@ate.bz

Tel: +65 6592 0543

NOTE TO EDITORS

For high resolution images, please download them at: <http://spookyseas.rwsentosa.media>.



The Largetooth Sawfish is the latest marine resident to be introduced at the S.E.A. Aquarium. Residing in the Open Ocean habitat, the sawfish is an exotic marine species that is facing threats in nature due to over-fishing.

SEAA Wonders: Spooky Seas

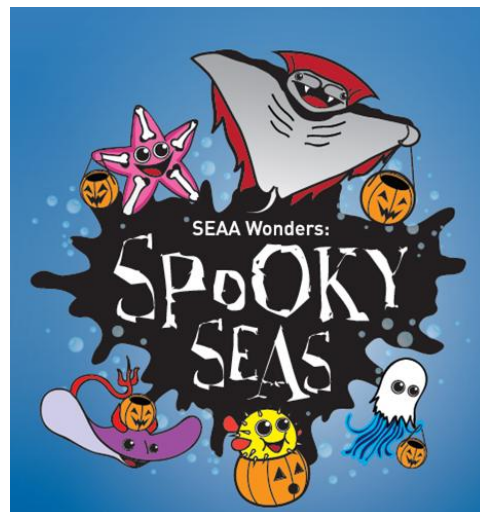
Spooky Seas Adventure Trail

An activity sheet will be presented to every child upon entering S.E.A. Aquarium. Through 12 activity stations across the aquarium, the Spooky Seas Adventure Trail will take children around the Aquarium introducing them to seemingly scary animals allowing them to learn about misunderstood species.

Dates: Daily

A special edition of the Adventure Trail will be introduced on weekends, with a trick-or-treat elements. Children will get the chance to make their own pumpkin bags at the Shipwreck habitat, and collect treats along the way while completing tasks in the Adventure Trail. Visitors can also get to meet & greet with marine characters dressed up for Halloween.

Dates (for Trick or Treat edition): 4-6, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, 31 October 2014



Ocean Dreams: Spooky Seas Edition

The iconic sleepover programme at S.E.A. Aquarium takes on a Halloween twist, where you become witch or wizard apprentices at the S.E.A.A wizardry convention! Be entertained by spooky legends of the seas, learn about deep-sea creatures through Halloween-themed games, and embark on an exclusive spell-binding journey of the aquarium. Advance to become Master Wizards or Witches equipped with knowledge to save our oceans and seas from harm! Suitable for families with kids from 6 years old onwards - wizarding attire strongly recommended!

Drift into slumber with tales of oceanic legends as you gaze at shimmering schools of fish in front of the spectacular Open Ocean Habitat, home to more than 100,000 marine animals from over 800 species, including majestic manta rays, goliath groupers and leopard sharks.



Dates: 18 and 31 October 2014

Time: 5pm - 11am (following Day)

Price: S\$193 (Adult); S\$173 (Child & Senior); S\$688 (Family Package of 2 Adults and 2 Children)

For reservations: Call +65 6577 7515, or email public.programmes@rwsentosa.com at least 2 weeks prior to event.

Aquarist Sharing Sessions

Marine animals have evolved some unique ways to protect themselves, to hunt for food or to hide from predators. While some of them appear scary or even intimidating to some, majority are hugely misunderstood. Come discover more as S.E.A. Aquarium's aquarists share more about *Venomous vs. Poisonous Marine Animals*, *Masters of Camouflage* and *Animal Defense*.

A. *Venomous vs. Poisonous Marine Animals*

Find out the aquarists' Top 5 pick of the most hazardous marine animals at S.E.A. Aquarium. Some of the most innocent-looking reef fishes are equipped with self-defense mechanisms. Those that can't hide may defend themselves using venomous darts, spines and needles, stinging cells or toxins in their skin.

Location: Ocean Dome
Dates: 4 – 6 October 2014
Timings: 11.30am, 3.00pm

B. *Masters of Camouflage*

The S.E.A. Aquarium is home to a wide variety of marine animals that show some of the most astonishing camouflage methods. Sea creatures have evolved these methods to allow them to live and reproduce. Imagine being able to change the color, pattern or texture of your skin to match your surroundings. Or to have the ability to mimic everyday objects so that people won't notice you are there!

Location: Ocean Dome
Dates: 4-6, 22, 25-26 October 2014
Timings: 1.30pm, 4.30pm

C. *Animal Defense*

When threatened, the first line of defense for many reef animals is to hide: "if you can't be seen, you can't be eaten". Some will employ deception, mimicry and camouflage to disguise themselves, while others will hide in holes or crevices. Those that can't hide may distract predators with inks, lights or ejected parts while they make a quick getaway. Find out how our marine animals have evolved to defend themselves from their predators.

Location: Ocean Dome
Dates: 22, 25-26 October 2014
Timings: 11.30am, 3.00pm

Video Screenings

A. *Encounter in the Deep Sea – The Giant Squid*

In 2013, ocean explorers finally achieved long term goal, to video the legendary giant squid (*Architeuthis dux*) in its natural deep-sea habitat. Japan's National Science Museum succeeded in filming this deep-sea creature working with Japanese broadcaster NHK and the Discovery Channel. The squid was first seen at 700 metres down in depths of the North Pacific Ocean. The footage will take guests on a journey to the depths of the ocean to see the giant squid and other rarely seen deep sea animals.

B. *Spooky Seas Marine life*

Discover S.E.A. Aquarium's huge diversity of animals, many with unique features used for protection, hunting and disguise. This video will show a range of animals, from our vampire-like Wolfish and African Tigerfish to our delicate but ghostly Leafy Sea Dragons and powerful Sawfish.

