

press release

S.E.A. Aquarium Celebrates White Fishmas with New Platinum Alligator Gars

Rare snowy hue prehistoric fish joins aquarium's collection of aquatic wonders; Visitors to enjoy Merry Fishmas festivities such as heartwarming stories of ocean conservation and Scuba Santa underwater diving adventures



This December, have a Merry White Fishmas at S.E.A. Aquarium with the newest additions to its aquatic family - rare platinum alligator gars. [Click on image to watch the video on platinum alligator gars.](#) PHOTO & VIDEO CREDITS: RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA.

SINGAPORE, 16 December 2016 – Dreaming of a white Fishmas? Dive down to S.E.A. Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa and meet the newest ‘snowy’ additions to its aquatic family: Platinum Alligator Gars. These torpedo-shaped megafish can grow up to three metres in length and weigh 140 kilogrammes. Typically olive green or grey with a heavily scaled body, the platinum alligator gars’ snowy hue is a result of a pigmentation disorder called leucism – a partial loss of pigmentation which results in white, pale or patchy colouration of the scales.

The largest of the seven gar species, alligator gars are so named because of their sharp teeth and wide, alligator-like snout. They are freshwater fishes, not reptiles, and resemble alligators only in appearance. These prehistoric giants have existed for millions of years and have the ability to survive in low oxygen waters. Like their ancestors from the dinosaur age, they have a swim bladder which they can use as a primitive lung. They fill this swim bladder by gulping air to supplement their gill breathing.

Despite their menacing appearance, alligator gars are passive towards humans. However, the fish's eggs are poisonous to humans if ingested. While these carnivores feed mainly on fish, they have been known to prey on birds, small mammals, turtles and carrion. Unfortunately, their numbers are dwindling as a result of overfishing, dam construction which affects spawning grounds, and habitat loss.

Visitors can come up close with the platinum alligator gars at the Central and South American exhibits at S.E.A. Aquarium, located next to the Twilight Reef habitat. The aquarium is home to 100,000 marine animals across 800 species.

From now till 2 January 2017, visitors can experience Merry Fishmas festivities at the aquarium including Mrs Santa's marine animal stories to learn about conservation, and Scuba Santa and Elf underwater diving adventures as they provide treats for the marine animals. In addition, merrymakers can marvel at a sparkling 3.2-metre tall Christmas tree made of over 300 plastic bottles and learn a thing or two about recycling and upcycling everyday objects to contribute towards conservation. Kids can get hands-on at Sea Protector activity stations to learn more about endangered marine life and how they can save them.

To add on to the festivities, visitors can embark on the Enchanted Sea Trail to discover marine animals that inspired water-type Pokémon. Those who wish to level up their Pokémon experience can explore the colourful world of Pokémon and meet the adorable Pikachu mascot at the interactive Pokémon Research Exhibition, held for the first time outside Japan.

Singapore residents enjoy 1-day passes to S.E.A. Aquarium at S\$34 (adult) and S\$22 (child/senior). All passes are bundled with admission to the Pokémon Research Exhibition and S\$5 retail voucher (with minimum spending of S\$30). Resorts World Sentosa donates S\$10* to Community Chest for every S.E.A. Aquarium ticket purchased in December. Visitors can play their part for charity and visit the aquarium for a good cause this festive season.

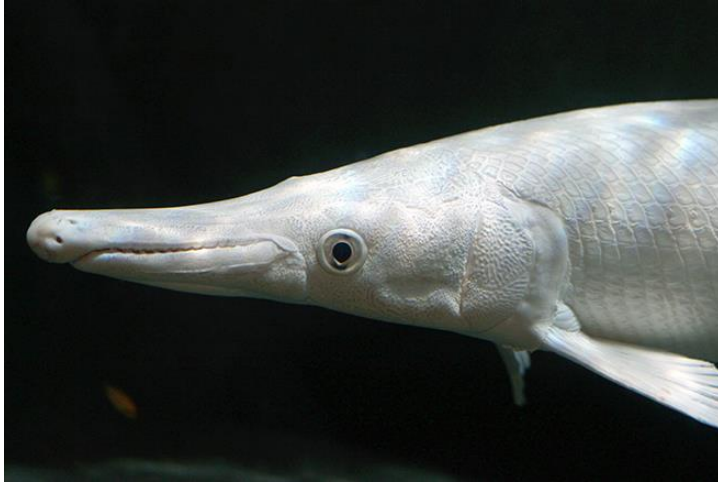
For more information, visit www.rwsentosa.com/seaa.

*Up to a maximum donation of S\$300,000.

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Note to Editors

1. Photos and videos can be downloaded from <https://app.box.com/v/MerryFishmas>
2. All photos and videos are to be attributed to **Resorts World Sentosa**



Dive down to S.E.A. Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa and meet the newest 'snowy' additions to its aquatic family: platinum alligator gars. The gars' snowy hue is a result of a pigmentation disorder called leucism – a partial loss of pigmentation which results in white, pale or patchy colouration of the scales.



From now till 2 January 2017, visitors to S.E.A. Aquarium can catch the underwater diving adventures of Scuba Santa and Elf as they provide treats for the marine animals as part of Merry Fishmas festivities.

Click on image to watch the [video](#) on Merry Fishmas festivities at S.E.A. Aquarium.



ABOUT S.E.A. AQUARIUM

Opened in 2012, S.E.A. Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa is one of the world's largest oceanarium home to more than 100,000 marine animals from across 800 species. Featuring 56 habitats, S.E.A. Aquarium exhibits close to 80 threatened species including the manta ray, Clarion angelfish and a variety of beautiful corals that mimic a pristine aquatic environment. Through interactive programs, up-close animal encounters and immersive learning journeys, S.E.A. Aquarium aims to inspire visitors to protect the world's oceans.

S.E.A. Aquarium collaborates with local and regional partners in marine conservation projects and is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's premium lifestyle destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, RWS is home to four world-class attractions including Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, Dolphin Island and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Other attractions include the Asian flagship of a world-renowned destination spa, a casino, six unique hotels and the Resorts World Convention Centre. With the most number of Michelin stars in one destination, RWS offers award-winning dining experiences at renowned celebrity chef restaurants, establishing itself as a key player in Singapore's vibrant and diverse dining scene. The integrated 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 has been named "Best Integrated Resort" since 2011 for six consecutive years at the TTG Travel Awards which recognises the best of Asia-Pacific's travel industry.

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

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