

media alert

S.E.A. Aquarium Celebrates Newborn Animals with Expanded and Enhanced Zone

New immersive zone features exciting and refreshed habitats for guests to learn about ocean diversity and interconnectedness between ecosystems



(Left) An aquarist places a poison arrow frog into its new home at the Rainforest habitat. (Top right) Hundreds of colourful coral fragments on display at the Coral Reef habitat. (Bottom right) Guests come face-to-face with intertidal marine residents such as the epaulette shark and knobby sea star at the Discovery Pool. PHOTO CREDITS: RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

SINGAPORE, 6 October 2020 – Marine animal lovers will be greeted with a larger, more spacious and refreshed S.E.A. Aquarium (SEAA) at Resorts World Sentosa with the addition of a new immersive zone that extends the visitor journey from the tropical rainforest and intertidal coastal terrains before descending upon the underwater cities of brightly-hued coral reefs. Offering plenty of open spaces for guests to circulate and view the exhibits with safe management measures in place, the enhanced zone will intrigue young and old with its eye-catching educational displays that inspire marine conservation. As life gradually transitions to a new norm in Singapore, the calm and serenity of the past months have also breathed new life among our aquatic animals with several exciting newborns, some of which are residents at the new zone.

New Rainforest, Intertidal and Coral Reef Habitats

The rainforest, one of the oldest ecosystems in the world, is home to more than half of the world's species of plants and animals. Featuring one of the most iconic animals at SEAA, the new Rainforest habitat is home to the **poison arrow frog**, a beautiful but deadly amphibian whose toxin is powerful enough to kill an adult human. These vividly-coloured, thumb-sized creatures get their moniker from indigenous tribes who used the frogs' poison to coat arrow tips for hunting and self-defence.

At the Intertidal habitat, where coasts toggle between being submerged during high tides and exposed during low tides, guests will come close to animals such as the **epaulette shark** – named after the two

large black spots behind their pectoral fins which resemble the epaulettes, a type of decoration, found on military uniforms; and the **knobbly sea star** – a native sea star found in Singapore waters recognised by the chocolate chip-like knobs on top of its body. Visitors will be able to meet these marine animals at the Discovery Pool, equipped with wash basins for guests to sanitise their hands before and after the experience.

Visitors will conclude their journey at a never-been-seen habitat showcasing **coral fragments**. Situated at the Coral Reef habitat, coral fragments, which are sectioned pieces of corals, allow visitors to understand how SEAA carries out its coral propagation programme by mimicking one of their natural reproduction methods. Coral propagation using fragmentation is one way to help restore damaged reefs by growing new coral colonies and reintroducing them into the ocean. Successful reproduction of these colourful plant-like animals – made up of polyps – will contribute towards populating the visually-stunning Hard Coral habitat at SEAA.

New Births of Animals

During the months when operations were temporarily suspended, the aquarium's successful husbandry, coupled with professional and dedicated care by the curatorial team, has resulted in the births of new animal residents. These include several housed at the enhanced zone such as poison arrow frog and epaulette shark. Among the newborns are some listed as "Vulnerable" and "Threatened" in the IUCN¹ Red List of Threatened Species belonging to the elasmobranch (both sharks and rays) species. These are the **leopard whipray**, so-named after the unique markings on its body resembling a leopard's coat and the **white-tip reef shark**, recognised by the distinctive white tips on its dorsal and upper tail fins. More information on the new baby animals can be found at [Annex](#).

Ms. Michelle Choo, Acting Vice President for Attractions, RWS said: "One of our key objectives at S.E.A. Aquarium is to educate the young about ocean diversity and inspire them to contribute toward ocean conservation. Through this new enhanced journey at S.E.A. Aquarium which travels to new Rainforest, Intertidal and Coral Reef habitats, we hope our guests will experience a deeper understanding of how different ecosystems come together to maintain the environment, and why loss of habitats is detrimental to the population of marine wildlife, and ultimately humans. At the same time, guests will be delighted to meet our new SEAA babies and watch how they grow and assimilate to their habitats."

Safe Management Measures

Ensuring guests have a safe and enjoyable time at S.E.A. Aquarium, the attraction has implemented a suite of stringent safe management measures anchored on our three principles of Safe Entry, Safe Experience and Safe Environment. Prominent queue and floor markers as well as stanchions are placed in front of all habitats to ensure safe distancing. All viewing panels, photo walls and railings are wiped down and disinfected hourly. A team of roving Safe Distancing Ambassadors are deployed to enforce the safe management measures including reminding guests to maintain 1-metre or more distancing, and

mandatory wearing of face masks. Antimicrobial coating, effective in eliminating viruses and bacteria, is extensively applied at all high-touch within the aquarium. This is supplemented with hourly wipe-downs using industrial grade disinfectant. Hand sanitisers are available through the aquarium, including the new zone, for guest use.

From now till 1 November 2020, guests can enjoy the Halloween festivities at S.E.A. Aquarium's **Deep Boo Sea** with fun trick-or-treating activities, candy giveaways, photo hunt to find lost pearls with exclusive prizes to be worn, a Halloween best dressed contest and lots of perfect moments for the 'gram. For more information, please visit this [website](#).

¹ IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature

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ABOUT S.E.A. AQUARIUM

Opened in November 2012, South East Asia Aquarium (S.E.A. Aquarium) at Resorts World Sentosa is one of the world's largest aquariums home to more than 100,000 marine animals representing 1,000 species. Featuring more than 45 diverse habitats, S.E.A. Aquarium exhibits close to 80 threatened species including the manta ray, Napoleon wrasse and a variety of beautiful corals that mirror a pristine aquatic environment. Through interactive programmes, 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 is a member of 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 world-class attractions including Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, Dolphin Island and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Complementing the adventure and adrenaline of its theme parks and attractions are six unique luxury hotels, the world-class Resorts World Convention Centre and a casino. RWS offers award-winning dining experiences and exciting cuisines from around the world across its many renowned celebrity chef restaurants, establishing itself as a key player in Singapore's vibrant and diverse dining scene and a leading gourmet destination in Asia for epicureans. The integrated resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts. RWS has been named "Best Integrated Resort" since 2011 for nine 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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Note to Editors

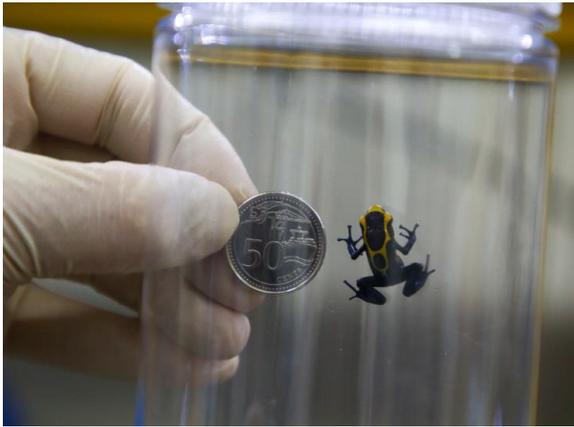
1. Photos can be downloaded from <https://app.box.com/s/5hgcbq01sgr1bafn8k8du5x7hu0znjlr>
2. All photos and video are to be attributed to **Resorts World Sentosa**.

Get to Know Our Baby Animals at S.E.A. Aquarium!

Name	Fascinating facts
<p>Leopard whipray <i>Himantura leopard</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The leopard whipray's name is derived from the unique markings on its body, which resemble a leopard's coat. • Its tail can grow up to three times its body length. • Inhabiting tropical and subtropical waters in sandy areas of coral reefs, its diet includes crustaceans such as crabs, shrimps and shelled invertebrates. • They are also ovoviviparous, meaning they produce eggs that hatch within the body before their young is born. • Leopard whiprays are dwindling in numbers because of its susceptibility to overfishing, bycatch and loss of natural coastal habitats, and generally have low reproduction rates. • You can spot the leopard whipray in the Open Ocean Habitat.
<p>White-tip reef shark <i>Triaenodon obesus</i></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily recognised by the white tips on its dorsal and upper tail fins, the white-tip reef shark is an agile swimmer, suited for its reef habitat existence. • The white-tip reef shark is a nocturnal hunter and usually spends its day resting in reef caves and sandy bottoms as a group. • It is viviparous, meaning that it gives birth to its young live. • The white-tip reef shark can be found in Shark Seas.

Dyeing poison arrow frog

Dendrobates tinctorius nominat



Yellow-banded poison arrow frog

Dendrobates leucomelas



- The poison arrow frog derives its name from the poison used to coat arrow tips for hunting by indigenous tribes.
- Its life cycle involves metamorphosis, where its physical appearances change as juveniles grow into adults.
- The poison arrow frog exhibits aposematic colouration, which refers to the bright colours on their skin that deters predators.
- Hop over to see the poison arrow frogs in the Rainforest habitat of S.E.A. Aquarium's enhanced zone.

Epaulette shark

Hemiscyllium ocellatum



- Epaulette sharks are named after the two large black spots situated behind their pectoral fins, bearing similarity to the epaulettes found on military uniforms.
- As an adaptation, epaulette sharks have the ability to 'walk', whereby its muscular pectoral fins lift the body and function as 'feet' to move for short distances when out of water.
- This is because epaulette sharks may sometimes be stranded in tide pools during low tide and having the ability to 'walk' enables them to get back to waters safely.
- Come face-to-face with the epaulette shark and other coastal shore inhabitants in the Intertidal habitat.

