

OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Barcelona Aquarium

Barcelona · From 30€

https://aquariumbcn.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

A Legacy of Marine Conservation

GOOGLE 4.1 ★★★★☆ 73 981 reviews

TIQETS 4.4 ★★★★☆ 7 023 reviews

Inaugurated on **September 8, 1995**, the Barcelona Aquarium emerged as a beacon of marine conservation in the heart of Port Vell. Designed to complement the city's transformation for the 1992 Olympics, it quickly became more than just an attraction; it established itself as the world's leading center dedicated to Mediterranean fauna. The complex was built with a singular vision: to educate millions about the fragile ecosystems surrounding Catalonia while showcasing the biodiversity that defines this unique sea.

Since its opening, the facility has welcomed over **40 million visitors**, securing its place as the fourth most visited attraction in Barcelona, trailing only the Sagrada Família, Parc Güell, and the FC Barcelona Museum. This massive attendance reflects not just curiosity, but a deep public engagement with nature. The aquarium's success lies in its ability to balance entertainment with rigorous scientific conservation, making it a pivotal institution for marine biology research in Europe.

The centerpiece of this architectural marvel is the Oceanarium, a colossal tank holding **3.7 million liters** of saltwater. This volume was carefully calculated to maintain a stable ecosystem for large pelagic species, allowing them to swim naturally without stress. The engineering feat required precise filtration systems and structural integrity to support such weight, creating a transparent window into the depths that feels both realistic and immersive for every guest who walks through.

In **2025**, marking its 30th anniversary, the aquarium launched a major renovation focused on digitalization and sustainability. This modernization includes new interactive educational tools and enhanced facilities designed to reduce environmental impact. By integrating cutting-edge technology with traditional aquaculture, the Barcelona Aquarium continues to evolve, ensuring it remains at the forefront of marine education and conservation efforts for future generations.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping into the entrance hall, you are immediately greeted by the hum of activity and the cool, saline air typical of underwater environments. The space opens up to reveal a **300 m² interactive floor screen**, one of the largest in Europe, which projects animated marine life beneath your feet. Children and adults alike pause to watch virtual fish dart around their shoes, setting a playful yet educational tone before you even see a live animal. It is a seamless blend of technology and nature that prepares your mind for the immersion ahead.

As you move deeper into the complex, the lighting dims, and the ambient sound of water becomes dominant. The architecture guides you gently toward the main tunnel, where the anticipation builds with every step. You feel a sense of calm mixed with excitement, knowing that you are about to walk beneath giants. The transition from the bright, tech-heavy entrance to the serene, blue-lit corridors creates a psychological shift, transporting you from the bustling city of Barcelona to the quiet depths of the Mediterranean.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS
Port Vell · Metro: Drassanes (L3) or Barceloneta (L4), exit towards the port.

OPENING HOURS
Open every day of the year. Hours vary by season and school holidays. Check the official website before coming.

PRICES
Free child admission depending on age (check variants). {promo}.

VISIT DURATION
Allow 1h30 to 2h to comfortably enjoy the tunnel, thematic aquariums, and the immersive room without rushing.

PHOTOS
Photography is allowed, but flash is strictly prohibited to avoid stressing the animals. Turn it off systematically, especially near the sharks.

AUDIENCE
Ideal for families with children thanks to the giant interactive screen. Also suitable for couples and groups passionate about nature and biodiversity.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

Metro
: Barceloneta — 7 min à pied
Barcelona station (12 min) · Drassanes (8 min)

Bus
: Moll de la Fusta — 5 min à pied
Gare barcelone (17 min) · Drassanes (11 min)

Car

Gare barcelone (11 min) · Drassanes (5 min)

Bicing / Bike

Gare barcelone (13 min) · Drassanes (5 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Barcelona Aquarium ?



📍 Moll d'Espanya, del Port Vell, s/n — 08039 Barcelona

🌐 41°22.611′ N, 2°11.060′ E



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Underworld Path

Entrance & Interactive Hall

Begin your journey at the ground level where the giant 300 m² interactive screen captivates visitors. This area serves as an orientation point, introducing the species you will encounter. Here, you can also purchase tickets and audioguides available in multiple languages, including French, English, and Spanish.

Mediterranean & Tropical Tanks

Descending slightly, you enter the thematic sections featuring 80 distinct aquariums. These levels house specific ecosystems like the Ebro Delta, red coral communities, and tropical reefs from the Red Sea and Caribbean. Each tank is meticulously labeled, offering detailed information on diet, behavior, and conservation status for the 600 species present.

The Oceanarium Tunnel & Immersive Room

The climax of the visit occurs at the central level, dominated by the 80-meter transparent tunnel beneath the Oceanarium. Following this, proceed to the Immersive Room for a 360° projection experience on climate change. This final section provides a reflective conclusion to the biological tour, emphasizing human impact on marine environments.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

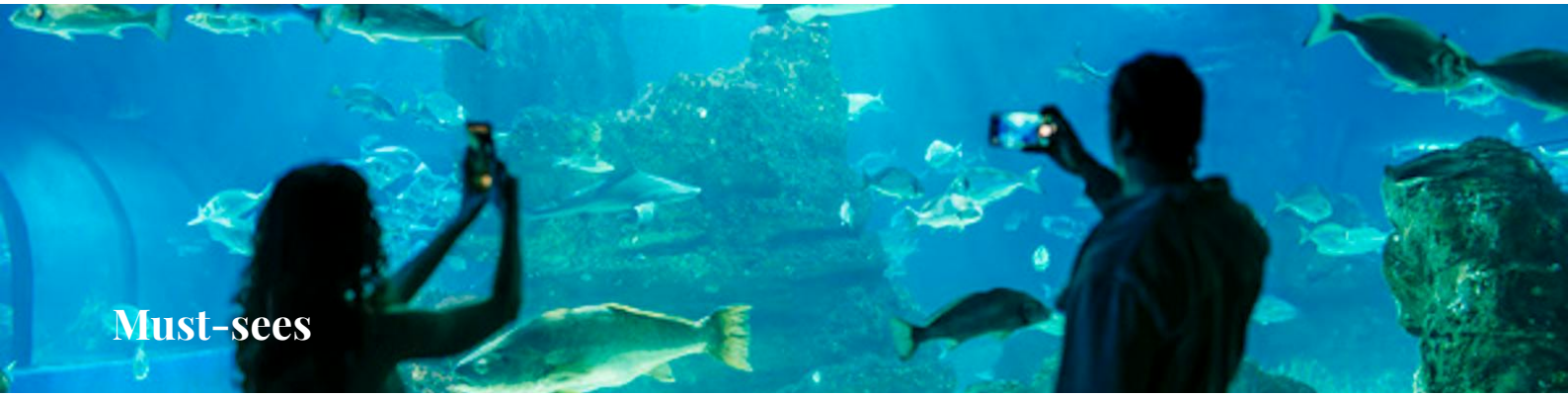
Full access for people with reduced mobility with elevators and wide corridors.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Ideal for families, with giant interactive screen and stroller-friendly route.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Essential Encounters in the Deep

01 Oceanarium

The 80-Meter Underwater Tunnel

This is the undisputed star of the aquarium. Walking through the **transparent acrylic tube**, you are surrounded by water on three sides and above. Bull sharks, grey sharks, and massive rays glide silently overhead, creating a sensation of total immersion. The scale is breathtaking, reminding you of the vastness of the ocean compared to human size.

> 💡 The tunnel allows you to see sharks from below, a perspective rarely seen in nature. **Bull sharks** are particularly curious and often swim close to the glass, inspecting visitors with intense focus.

02 Central Basin

The Oceanarium Main Tank

Holding **3.7 million liters** of seawater, this colossal basin supports a balanced ecosystem for large pelagic species. It is not just a display but a functioning habitat that mimics natural currents and temperature gradients. Observing the schooling behavior of moonfish and daurades here reveals the complex social structures of marine life.

> 💡 The stability of this ecosystem requires constant monitoring. Engineers ensure that salinity and oxygen levels remain perfect, allowing these animals to thrive for years without stress.

03 Entrance Hall

Giant Interactive Floor Screen

One of the largest digital installations in Europe, this **300 m² screen** projects animated marine creatures that react to your movement. It serves as an engaging introduction for children, teaching them about species identification before they enter the tanks. The technology bridges the gap between digital learning and physical observation.

> 💡 Installed during recent renovations, this tool has significantly increased engagement times among younger visitors. **Kids love stepping on virtual fish**, making the start of the visit fun rather than educational drudgery.

04 Immersive Zone

Immersive Room: Journey into the Depths

This 360° projection room uses high-definition visuals and ambient sound to recreate deep-sea environments. It focuses heavily on the effects of **climate change** on marine ecosystems, providing a crucial educational perspective. Visitors feel submerged in abyssal zones, witnessing the beauty and fragility of underwater landscapes firsthand.

> 💡 Often overlooked by hurried tourists, this room offers the most profound emotional impact. **The silence of the projections** contrasts sharply with the busy tunnel, encouraging reflection on conservation.

05 Thematic Sections

Mediterranean Biodiversity Tanks

As the world's most important center for Mediterranean fauna, these tanks showcase nearly **600 different species**. From the intricate details of seahorses to the vibrant colors of tropical fish, each aquarium highlights a specific niche. The labeling provides deep insights into local conservation efforts and the threats facing these habitats.

> 💡 Look closely at the red coral exhibits. **Red coral** is a protected species in the Mediterranean, and seeing it thrive in captivity highlights the importance of marine reserves.

06 Tropical Section

Tropical Reef Exhibits

These smaller tanks represent ecosystems from the Red Sea, Great Barrier Reef, and Caribbean. They feature colorful clownfish, venomous stonefish, and delicate corals. The vivid colors provide a visual break from the more muted tones of the Mediterranean tanks, showcasing the global diversity of marine life.

> 💡 Some tropical species are highly sensitive to light changes. **Keep flash photography off** near these tanks to avoid stressing the delicate coral polyps and fish.

07 End of Route

Planeta Aqua Pavilion

Located at the end of the visit, this pavilion features shallow basins with species adapted to various aquatic conditions. It serves as a gentle conclusion to the tour, allowing visitors to observe smaller, less intimidating creatures. The layout encourages a slower pace, perfect for digesting the information gathered throughout the visit.

> 💡 This area is ideal for families with young children who may be tired after the tunnel. **Shallow waters** allow for closer observation without the intimidation factor of large predators.

08 Mediterranean Section

Ebro Delta Recreation

This specific tank recreates the unique brackish water environment of the Ebro Delta, a protected area in Catalonia. It hosts species that thrive in the mix of fresh and saltwater, such as certain eels and crustaceans. It highlights the importance of river mouths as nurseries for marine life.

> 💡 The Ebro Delta is a critical stopover for migratory birds. **Understanding this habitat** helps visitors appreciate the interconnectedness of land and sea ecosystems.

TIPS

Mastering Your Visit Strategy

TIMING

Arrive exactly at opening time, ideally between **9:00 AM and 9:30 AM**. This ensures you can enjoy the tunnel without crowds blocking your view, allowing for clear photos and a peaceful encounter with the sharks.

BILLET

Book tickets online in advance, especially during peak season and weekends. Online booking avoids long queues at the ticket office and guarantees entry. Check for combined passes with Aspro Parks for significant savings if visiting other attractions.

PARCOURS

Start with the interactive screen to engage children, then move directly to the Oceanarium tunnel while energy is high. Finish with the Immersive Room and thematic tanks to allow for a gradual wind-down. Allow 1h30 to 2h for a relaxed pace.

PHOTO

Photography is allowed, but **flash is strictly prohibited**. Use the ambient light in the tunnel for dramatic shots. Turn off flash systematically to avoid stressing the animals, particularly the sensitive sharks and rays.

PAUSE

There are no cafes inside the aquarium itself. Plan to eat before or after your visit. The nearby Maremagnum shopping center offers numerous restaurants with port views, perfect for a post-visit meal to discuss what you saw.

ENFANTS

Use the giant interactive floor screen at the entrance to capture children's attention immediately. It turns the visit into a game. The route is stroller-friendly, but comfortable shoes are essential for the amount of walking involved.

AUDIOGUIDE

An audioguide is available in French, English, and Spanish. It is highly recommended for families and those interested in detailed biological facts. It enriches the experience by explaining the diet and behavior of the 600 species present.

CONFORT

Wear **light, comfortable shoes** as the route involves walking between different levels and themed aquariums. The environment is cool, so bring a light jacket if you are sensitive to temperature changes, especially near the open tanks.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I need to book tickets in advance?

Yes, online booking is highly recommended, especially during peak season and weekends. This allows you to avoid long queues at the ticket office. You can purchase your tickets directly on the official website.

What is the difference between standard tickets and those with the immersive room?

The standard ticket grants access to the aquariums and the tunnel. The optional ticket includes the Immersive Room: Journey into the Depths. The latter offers an additional 360° experience focused on climate.

Are there discounts for children?

Reduced rates are available for children depending on their age. Very young babies may enter free of charge. Check the exact conditions on the official website when booking to verify eligibility.

Can I cancel or modify my reservation?

Cancellation policies vary depending on the type of ticket purchased. Some allow free modifications up to a certain date. Check the specific terms of your ticket before confirming the purchase.

How long does the full visit take?

Allow between 1h30 and 2h for a relaxed visit. This time will allow you to explore the tunnel, thematic aquariums, and the immersive room without rushing. Arrive early to avoid peak crowds.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

World Leader in Mediterranean Fauna

The Barcelona Aquarium is not just a popular tourist spot; it is the **world's most important center** dedicated to Mediterranean fauna. With nearly 600 species, it plays a crucial role in conservation and research, helping scientists understand the health of the Mediterranean Sea.

The 2025 Digital Revolution

On its 30th anniversary, the aquarium is undergoing a major renovation focused on **digitalization and sustainability**. This includes new interactive educational tools and modernized facilities, ensuring it remains at the cutting edge of marine education for decades to come.

A City Icon

With over **40 million visitors** since 1995, it ranks as the fourth most visited attraction in Barcelona. This statistic underscores its cultural significance, standing alongside iconic landmarks like the Sagrada Família in the hearts of locals and tourists alike.

Engineering Marvel

The Oceanarium's **3.7 million liters** of water require sophisticated engineering to maintain stability. The system filters and circulates water continuously, creating a self-sustaining ecosystem that supports large predators like bull sharks without artificial intervention.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Located in the vibrant **Port Vell** district, the aquarium is perfectly positioned for a full day of exploration. Just opposite the entrance stands the Maritime Museum, housed in a historic fortification that offers fascinating insights into Catalan naval history. For lunch or shopping, the nearby Maremagnum shopping center provides excellent views of the harbor and a variety of dining options suitable for all budgets. After your visit, take a leisurely walk along the waterfront towards **Port Olímpic**, where lively restaurants serve fresh seafood with stunning sunset views. If time permits, the Gothic Quarter is accessible on foot, offering a stark medieval contrast to the modern port atmosphere.



Leaving the Barcelona Aquarium is not just exiting a building; it is emerging from a dreamlike state back into reality. The memory of swimming alongside **bull sharks** and rays lingers long after you step out onto the sunlit port. This experience transforms how you perceive the ocean, turning abstract concerns about climate change into personal, emotional connections. It is a reminder that beneath our feet lies a vibrant, living world worth protecting.