

Georgia Aquarium Journey with Gentle Giants

Congratulations!

Your registration in Georgia Aquarium's Journey with Gentle Giants Program is your ticket to the experience of a lifetime. By coming face-to-face with the tremendous diversity of aquatic animals - especially whale sharks - you will deepen your connection to our beautiful ocean. We hope your journey will also give you a better understanding of the important need to support conservation initiatives at the Aquarium and around the world.



General Information

Ticketing

After placing your order, you will receive an emailed ticket. You can either print this ticket at home or import your tickets directly to your phone by using the Georgia Aquarium Mobile App.

Arrival

Please check in at the Animal Interaction Kiosk at least 30 minutes before your scheduled time. The Animal Interaction desk is located next to the Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot gallery. We recommend that you arrive at the Aquarium *at least* one hour prior to ensure an on-time arrival.

Friends and family who wish to view your experience must purchase a General Admission ticket and should also check in with our volunteers at the Animal Interaction Kiosk.

Please visit our web site for the Aquarium's hours of operation.

Participant Requirements



All dive and swim program participants must complete the electronic waiver prior to the experience. You can access the waiver by visiting the link below and following the instructions:

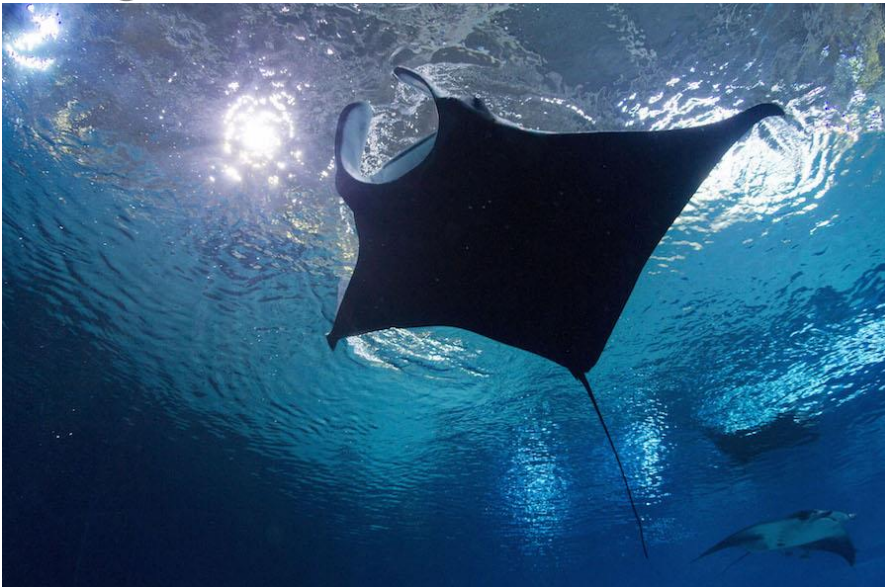
www.smartwaiver.com/v/dive/

All participants must be at least 12 years old. All participants under 18 years old must be accompanied by a participating adult IN THE WATER. For the Swim Program, there is a maximum of 7 children (ages 12-17) per participating adult. For the Dive Program, there is a maximum of 7 children (ages 15-17) per participating adult and EACH child ages 12-14 must be accompanied by a participating adult. All Swim or Dive participants under 18 years of age must have the program liability waiver signed and dated by their PARENT OF CUSTODY or COURT APPOINTED LEGAL GUARDIAN. Waivers signed by those other than a parent or court appointed legal guardian will not be accepted.

Guests with special needs should inform the dive team prior to your event date to review your requirements, mobility, and equipment. We will be happy to make any reasonable accommodations to improve the quality of your experience. We have designed the locker room and dive platform to meet ADA regulations.

Guests who will be participating in the SCUBA program must have proof of Open Water certification from a nationally or internationally recognized organization. Please note: PADI Scuba Diver is NOT a valid Open Water certification. Although it is not required, Georgia Aquarium strongly recommends that any diver who has not recently been in the water participate in a refresher course.

Program Overview



- Attend an orientation on the exhibit and the animals, as well as an introduction to the guidelines and rules of the experience
- Change into a Georgia Aquarium wetsuit and become one of the team
- Attend an on deck briefing of the environment, gear, and activities
- Pose for a souvenir group photo prior to entering the exhibit
- Participate in a guided 30-minute dive or swim in the 6.3 million gallon habitat
- Shower and change in the locker rooms
- Enjoy viewing your video and receive your souvenir t-shirt and photo

Journey with Gentle Giants is a thirty-minute SCUBA dive or surface swim in the Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot exhibit. The dive is offered at 3:00 PM daily and the swim is offered at 4:30 PM daily. An additional dive is scheduled on weekend mornings at 11:00 AM. These times can be subject to change based on the needs of the animals, special events, or holiday hours.

In addition to the immersion experience, the program ticket includes a souvenir t-shirt and a group photo.

Please note that our dolphin and sea lion presentation schedules change and often take place at the same time as the Journey with Gentle Giants programs. Please plan ahead to attend a presentation time that does not conflict with your dive or swim

program.

An HD-quality video of your underwater experience will be available for purchase for \$49.95 plus tax. Additional “Journey with Gentle Giants” t-shirts are \$13.95 plus tax and the Georgia Aquarium Dive Team mask straps are \$9.95 plus tax. All proceeds benefit the Aquarium’s research and conservation initiatives. **Please note that we only accept credit cards for all transactions.**

Our cancellation policy states that a date may be changed free of charge if the change is made at least 14 days in advance of the original date of your visit. If the change is made less than 14 days prior to the original date of your visit, a \$50.00 change fee per ticket will be charged. No changes can be made less than 48 hours prior to the

date of your original visit. Cancellations and no-shows will not be refunded or rescheduled. To change your reservation, please contact the Georgia Aquarium Call Center at (404) 581-4000.

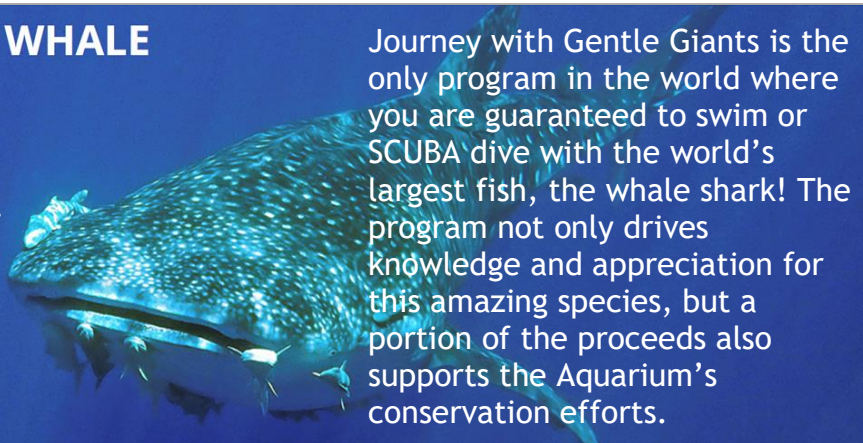
Group Dives:

All group reservations require a non-refundable deposit. Full payment for group dives is due no later than 30 days prior to the dive. Full roster information including name, gender, height, weight, shoe size, and t-shirt size for each diver is due to your sales manager no later than 14 days prior to dive.

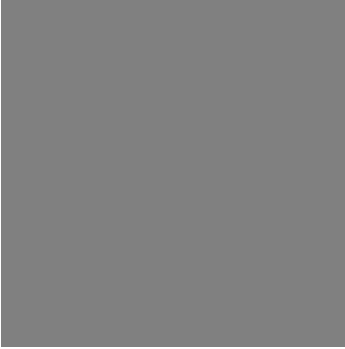
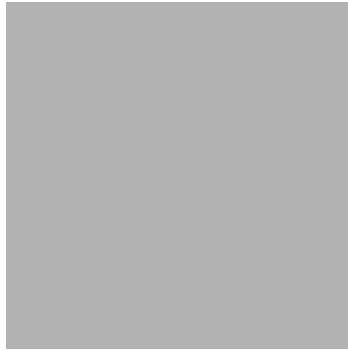
Due to the nature of caring for animals, Georgia Aquarium reserves the right to modify, cancel, and/or reschedule any program based on the wellbeing of the animals and your safety.

CARING TOGETHER FOR WHALE SHARKS

The Dive Immersion Program is an opportunity to explore Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot. The Georgia Aquarium Dive Team provides an introduction to the Aquarium’s conservation initiatives, which supports our whale shark research.



Journey with Gentle Giants is the only program in the world where you are guaranteed to swim or SCUBA dive with the world’s largest fish, the whale shark! The program not only drives knowledge and appreciation for this amazing species, but a portion of the proceeds also supports the Aquarium’s conservation efforts.



What to Bring:

Those who are SCUBA diving are required to present proof of Open Water certification (or higher). PADI Scuba Diver is not accepted.

We will provide all the equipment necessary for your experience. You may bring ONLY a personal mask, snorkel and a wrist computer if you choose. No other personal equipment is allowed in the exhibit due to the potential for habitat contamination. Also, please bring a swimsuit to wear under your wetsuit.

A locker will be provided for each participant's personal items. The locker rooms have shower facilities and are also equipped with bottles of water, towels, body wash, shampoo and conditioner. Due to the environmental impact, we do not provide bags for your wet items, so please bring your own.

The deck surrounding the exhibit is a wet environment. We recommend that you wear appropriate footwear with a non-slip surface.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get to the Aquarium?

The Aquarium is located in downtown Atlanta adjacent to the World of Coca-Cola and Centennial Olympic Park. Please visit our web site for directions to the Aquarium.

Upon entering the Aquarium, please check in at the Animal Interaction Kiosk located next to the Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot gallery.

Will tickets be available for walk-up guests who want to participate in the dive or swim program?

Yes, but this is based on the availability of our programs each day. It is strongly recommended to reserve your tickets in advance.

How many guests can participate at once?

Each experience can accommodate up to eight participants. If you are interested in buying out a time slot to participate alone or with a group of people you know, please contact our Group Sales Department at (404) 581-4121.

Can my friends and family watch me dive or swim? Do they have to buy a ticket?

Yes, friends and family are welcome to watch you during your dive or swim. They must purchase a

General Admission ticket and check in at the Animal Interaction Kiosk at the same time as your event. Our Volunteers will escort them through the gallery during your dive or swim so that they can view the event from the tunnel and the main theater window. Children who are visiting as friends and family of the dive or swim participants must be chaperoned by an adult. If your event ends after the Aquarium closes, the Volunteers will escort your friends and family to meet you after you have finished your event and showered.

What is the difference between the rebreather dive, the open circuit SCUBA dive and the swim?

The rebreather dive allows guests the opportunity to try a rebreather with over an hour in the exhibit. The open circuit SCUBA dive is a 30-minute dive using a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus. There are several large diving organizations that train and certify SCUBA divers and instructors. The Aquarium's dive program requires that participants in either program have proof of an Open Water certification or higher.

The Aquarium's swim program allows individuals to snorkel at the surface with a life vest. Participants of the swim will remain at the surface at all times

and do not dive down under the water. There is no certification necessary to participate in the swim program.

What is the duration of the program?

The dive and the swim programs last about 2.5 hours.

How big is Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot and what will I see?

The habitat contains 6.3 million gallons of water, making it one of the world’s largest indoor aquatic habitats. With depths ranging from 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 m), this habitat is home to thousands of animals that are found throughout the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. You will be in the water alongside whale sharks, manta rays, schools of jacks, stingrays, enormous giant grouper, and several species of sharks. For more information on the exhibit please visit the [Georgia Aquarium Animal Guide](#)

What is the water temperature?

The water temperature is maintained at about 76° F (25° C).

Can we touch the animals?

The swim and dive are for observation only. This is not an animal interaction experience.

Will we feed the animals?

We do not allow participants to feed the animals during the experience.

Can I bring my underwater camera?

No, personal underwater cameras are not allowed in the exhibit. An HD-quality video of your experience will be available for purchase after your event. You may also bring a dry-camera on the deck of the exhibit to take

photos prior to your swim or dive. Friends and family may also take photos or video while they watch you from the public side. We also provide a souvenir group photo on the deck of Ocean Voyager prior to your entry.

*Photos and video taken during the dive are the property of Georgia Aquarium and we reserve the right to use any photos and video for promotional purposes.

Will there be a guide in the water with me?

Georgia Aquarium Dive Team members will be in the water with you at all times. Our professional team of SCUBA divemasters and instructors are CPR, first aid and emergency oxygen trained. Both the dive and the swim programs are guided tours. To learn more about our Dive Team, please visit our [Georgia Aquarium Dive Team Blog](#)

All participants are required to listen to and follow the above-water and underwater direction of the staff while participating in the activity. Guests who conduct themselves in a manner that compromises the safety or quality of the program for the animals, other guests or Aquarium staff will be required to leave the program immediately, forfeit the right to participate in any remaining aspects of the program and will not receive reimbursement.

Should I refrain from using any personal products the day of my dive or swim?

Yes, please do not use any hair control products (hairspray or gel), lotions or perfumes until after you have showered. For the safety of the animals, guests participating in the program will be asked to remove jewelry, hair accessories, and any other loose items prior to entering the habitat.





SCUBA

Enhance your dive with the PADI Whale Shark or Manta Ray Distinctive Specialty!

Certified Open Water divers who are participating in Georgia Aquarium's Journey with Gentle Giants Dive Immersion Program have the opportunity to earn these unique PADI Distinctive Specialties. Georgia Aquarium is the only environment in the world to offer these certifications.

Course Overview

The PADI Whale Shark and Manta Ray Distinctive Specialties at Georgia Aquarium offer the exclusive opportunity for guests to learn more about the whale sharks or manta rays through academic materials and a behind-the-scenes tour. Divers also get additional time in the water (five to seven minutes) for a more intimate experience with the animals.

The specialties are available for an additional cost of \$69.95 plus tax to your purchased dive. Participants will receive a student manual, a collector's pin, a wristband and a PADI Whale Shark or Manta Ray Distinctive Specialty certification card, depending on the program in which you are participating. Participation in the dive and the educational session is required for each PADI certification.

Registration Information

The PADI Whale Shark or Manta Ray Distinctive Specialty certification is available as an add-on to your Journey with Gentle Giants dive. Please call the Georgia Aquarium Call Center at 404-581-4000 to add a distinctive specialty to your program.

Guests may only register for the Whale Shark OR the Manta Ray Distinctive Specialty during a single dive. PADI does not allow the participation of two specialties during a single dive.

Earlier Check-in Times

Divers participating in either Distinctive Specialty have an earlier check-in time at the Animal Interaction Kiosk: For the 11:00 AM dive, participants should arrive at 10:15 AM for the Manta Ray Specialty and 10:15 AM for the Whale Shark Specialty. For the 3:00 PM dive, both Manta Ray and Whale Shark Specialty guests should check in at 2:15 PM.

Additional Paperwork

Upon registering for a PADI Distinctive Specialty, you will be provided with a Whale Shark or Manta Ray student packet.

The PADI Continuing Education Administrative Document is included at the end of the student packet. Completion of the PADI forms included in the packet is required prior to participating in the specialty. The document includes a Medical Statement, Standard Safe Diver Practices Statement of Understanding and the Liability release and Assumption of Risk.

Please note, if you answer "yes" to any of the statements on the "Divers Medical Questionnaire," please bring the RSTC Medical Statement to your physician to clear you for participation and present the form to the Dive Team on the day of your event.