

# Georgia Aquarium Journey with Gentle Giants: Rebreather

## 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.



GEORGIA AQUARIUM



## 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 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 inquire with our volunteers at the Animal Interaction Kiosk about when and where to view your dive from the dry side.

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



All rebreather dive 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/](http://www.smartwaiver.com/v/dive/)

## Rebreather Participant Requirements

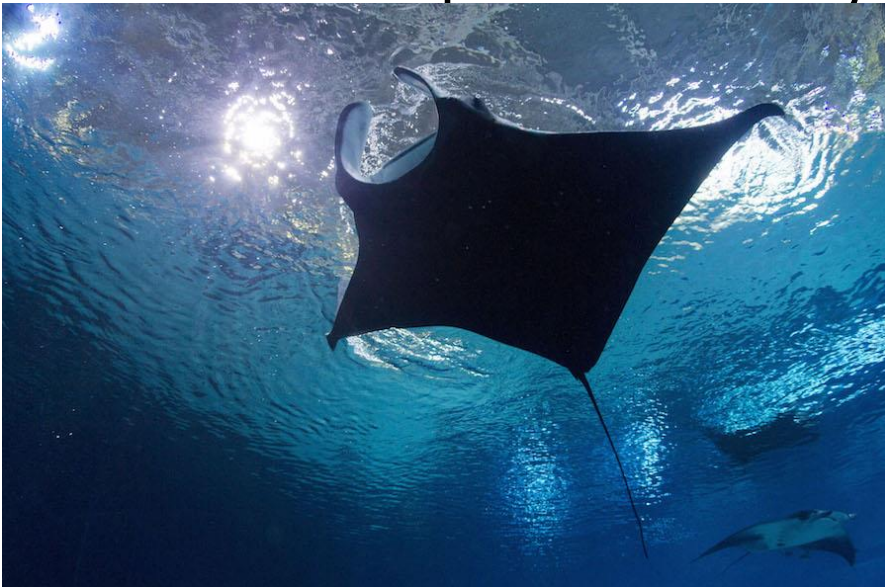
Participants must be at least 15 years old. Participants under 18 years old must be accompanied by a participating adult in the water and must have the program liability waiver signed and dated by their PARENT OF CUSTODY or COURT APPOINTED LEGAL GUARDIAN. Waivers signed by those other than a parent or 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. Please note that the entry and exit to the exhibit does require guests to use a ladder.

Guests who will be participating in the rebreather experience must have proof of Open Water certification from a nationally or internationally recognized organization. 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.

We strongly recommend that rebreather participants are proficient divers who are interested in the technology of closed-circuit rebreathers and are confident using unfamiliar equipment.

# Rebreather Experience Program Overview



- Attend a classroom orientation on the exhibit, the animals, the equipment, and the dive plan
- Change into a Georgia Aquarium wetsuit and become one of the team
- Attend an on deck equipment orientation to the Poseidon SE7EN equipment
- Pose for a souvenir photo prior to entering the exhibit
- Participate in a guided dive
- Shower and change in the locker rooms

The Journey with Gentle Giants rebreather dive lasts more than an hour on a Poseidon Se7en Rebreather in the Aquarium's largest exhibit, Ocean Voyager Built by The Home Depot. The dive is offered at 10:15 AM on weekend mornings. This time can be subject to change based on the needs of the animals, special events, or holiday hours.

Please note that our dolphin and sea lion presentation schedules change and often take place at the same time as the rebreather program. Please plan ahead to attend a presentation time that does not conflict with your dive program.

An HD-quality video of your underwater experience is included in the program cost and will be mailed

to you after your event date. The program also includes a souvenir t-shirt, certificate, sticker, and photos of your dive in Ocean Voyager.

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.

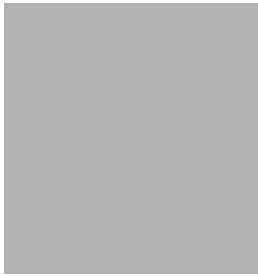
Due to the nature of caring for animals, Georgia Aquarium reserves the right to modify, cancel, and/or reschedule any program based on the wellbeing of the animals and your safety.

## 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:

You will be required to present proof of Open Water certification (or higher).

We will provide all the equipment necessary for your experience. You may bring ONLY a personal mask, snorkel, and 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 desk 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 rebreather program?

Yes, but this is based on the availability of our program each day. Due to the exclusivity of the rebreather dive, is **strongly** recommended to reserve your tickets for all participants in advance.

## How many guests can participate at once?

Each rebreather dive can accommodate up to four 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? Do they have to buy a ticket?

Yes, friends and family are welcome to watch you during your dive. They must purchase a General Admission ticket and can check in at the Animal Interaction Kiosk at the same time as your event.

Our Volunteers will instruct them to position themselves at the Ocean Voyager theater window between 1:00 and 1:15 to observe your dive. Children who are visiting as friends and family of the dive or swim participants must be chaperoned by an adult.

## 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 Poseidon Se7en 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 rebreather experience lasts 3.5 hours including a classroom orientation to the equipment with more than an hour of bottom time.

**Where can I learn more about the rebreather equipment?**

The equipment used during the try a rebreather dive is a Poseidon Se7en. More information about this model of rebreather can be found at: <http://www.poseidon.com/products/rebreathers/se7en>

**What happens if I am uncomfortable using the rebreather?**

If you are not comfortable using the rebreather equipment after the first 30 minutes of your dive, you have the opportunity to surface and finish your dive on an open circuit SCUBA system.

**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. Please note, the swim and dive are for observation only. This is not an animal interaction experience.

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 I bring my underwater camera?**

No, personal underwater cameras are not allowed in the exhibit. An HD-quality video of your experience is

included in the price and will be mailed to you after your program. You may also bring a dry-camera on the deck of the exhibit to take photos prior to your experience. Friends and family may also take photos or video while they watch you from the public side.

*\*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 instructors will be in the water with you at all times. Our professional team of rebreather instructors is CPR, first aid and emergency oxygen trained. 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.

