

# Marine Studios

## W E L C O M E T O A C E L E B R A T I O N O F T H E H I S T O R Y O F T H E W O R L D ' S F I R S T O C E A N A R I U M !

Modern day Marineland, right here in St. Augustine, provides a home for dolphins, sea turtles, sharks, fish, and more, and this has been true for longer than 80 years!

In 1937, our founders, W. Douglas Burden, Cornelius Vanderbilt "Sonny" Whitney, and Ilya Tolstoy, envisioned an underwater film studio where they could "bring the sea ashore" for film makers who had no other way to get underwater footage in the days before SCUBA and waterproof cameras.

Our beautiful stretch of coastline proved to be the ideal location to make this vision a reality.

Three-story oceanarium buildings holding almost a million gallons of ocean water were constructed, housing more than 200 porthole windows for a crystal clear view into the underwater world.

Marine species of all kinds lived together in these exhibits, defining the word, "Oceanarium" in contrast with "Aquarium" where species were separated.

On June 23, 1938 the public was invited for a preview of the World's First Oceanarium. When 30,000 people arrived, awed by native species they'd never seen, our founders realized that the community, and ultimately the world, had so much desire to learn from the oceans.

By observing the staff caring for species that had formerly been seen as dangerous, unpleasant, or a food source, people were exposed to new ways of thinking about our relationship with wildlife.

By caring for these animals, our staff discovered so much that was previously unknown. Discoveries in the world of marine mammal reproduction, dolphin echolocation, water quality, and more, happened here. Marine Studios became the premier site for marine research in the world.

The first generation of people to have the opportunity to view these animals up close became the generation responsible for conservation efforts such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

As the #1 tourist attraction in Florida, and a venue for teaching and inspiring, Marine Studios never forgot its roots as a film studio. Over the years, feature films, television shows, commercials, and news reels were all filmed here. Check out "Revenge of the Creature", "Benji Takes a Dive", "Zaat", "Bernie the Dolphin" and more to see the film studio in action.

Thank you for visiting our exhibit which highlights some of the firsts in the world of marine science, film making, tourism, architecture, and animal training.



### IN THIS EXHIBIT:

- Opening Day : June 23, 1938
- Design Theme:  
“Nautical Moderne”
- Marine Studios:  
The 1st Underwater Film Studio
- Hard Hat Diving
- Early Marine Mammal Training
- Marine Research
  - Dolphin echolocation and communication
  - Bottlenose dolphin reproduction
- Tourism
  - Dolphin Restaurant
  - Moby Dick Lounge
  - Marineland Hotels

### DID YOU KNOW:

- Marineland opened on June 23, 1938 as Marine Studios, an underwater film studio.
- Flippy, the first dolphin ever to be trained was trained at Marineland in 1949.
- Spray, the first dolphin to be born in human care, was born at Marineland in 1947.
- Echolocation, signature whistles, and dolphin communication were all studied at Marineland.
- The oldest dolphin EVER in human care lived at Marineland. Nellie was born on February 27, 1953 and lived with us for 61 years. Her son and grandson are still here today.
- YOU can visit this historic facility which still operates as an educational and interactive aquarium just 17 miles south of downtown St. Augustine at 9600 Oceanshore Boulevard.

# COME SEE US!



We'd love for you to see how we are honoring our history while moving forward with cutting edge animal care and a goal to inspire marine conservation for future generations.



Please enjoy this discount on admission and animal interactive programs. We encourage advanced reservations.  
**marineland.net**  
**(407) 563-4701, option 1**



From downtown St. Augustine you'll cross the Bridge of Lions, and simply head straight down A1A for 17 beautiful coastal miles. We'll see you *where the sea comes ashore.*

*Marineland.*  
*A Celebration Of Our History*

**25% OFF**  
ADMISSION OR ANIMAL  
INTERACTIONS OF YOUR CHOICE

**Promo Code: MUSEUM2021**  
Discount cannot be combined with any other coupons or promotions

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advanced reservations

[www.marineland.net](http://www.marineland.net) (407) 563-4701, option 1

- Do YOU have stories and memories from Marineland? **We'd love to hear them!**
- Do you have questions or thoughts about this exhibit? **Please share!**
- Do you have photographs, brochures, memorabilia to donate to the collection? **We'll take it!**

Please reach out to our historian at [MarinelandMemories@marineland.net](mailto:MarinelandMemories@marineland.net)