



## Exhibit Facts

**What?** A penguin exhibit called, *Encounter*, at Penguin Pavilion, featuring 14 African Penguins and interactive learning experiences.

**Where?** Atlantis Marine World, 431 East Main Street, Riverhead, New York

**The Exhibit:** A 2,000-square-foot exhibit footprint, created at a cost of \$800,000. 14 African Penguins housed in a 800-square-foot enclosure with a 45-ft. viewing window at the pool and 14-ft. viewing window at the beach. A pop-up window (3-ft diameter; 18” inches high), called Bird’s Eye-to-Eye View, is also located in the beach habitat. Below is a 5-ft. cut-out, with striations on its walls representing the Long Island Aquifer, or an underground bed or layer of earth, gravel, or porous stone that yields water. A more than 50-person stadium accompanies the exhibit to be used for public lectures, feeds, or educational programs. Visitors are greeted to the exhibit by two 10-ft penguins atop 2-ft pedestals. An 8-ft. waterfall cascades into the first habitat -- the pool, or ocean representation, which in its natural environment is primarily used for hunting and cooling. The beach habitat is located deep within the exhibit, which is primarily used for nesting and resting. The nine holes in the back wall of the structure represent burrows, or snug spaces that the penguins will use for nesting.

**What’s Unique?** 14 African Penguins found their way to Atlantis Marine World in April 2004. They were captive bred in South Africa and imported illegally into the United States. US Fish and Wildlife Service confiscated them and contacted Atlantis Marine World as a potential home. Our gift shop storage room was gutted and three swim tanks along with a filtration system were added all in three days. Construction began on the exhibit on January 2, 2005 after completion of all current construction projects.

**What’s Written on the Pedestals?** Translated into heiroglyphs is the following saying: “The end of becoming is the beginning of destruction. The end of destruction is the beginning of becoming. Look with wonder and questioning, and observe this masterpiece. Go forth in this time of destruction and create beauty for and within yourselves. All who enter this temple, hail the gods of the Penguins.”



## **Exhibit Facts (*continued*)**

**Admission:** Included in the Aquarium admission (Summer rates): \$17.50 adult; \$15.50 seniors (over 65) and children (3-11). Children under 3 admitted free. Group rates available with advance booking for parties of 15 or more.

**Information:** Long Island's newest aquarium featuring more than 100 exhibits, including: 120,000 gallon Shark Tank, largest living Coral Reef in all of North America, Feed the Sting Rays, Snorkel with Sharks, Rays, and other Tropical Fish, Sea Lion Shows, Japanese Snow Monkeys, Atlantis Explorer tour boat, The Amazon Rainforest, Priceless Parrot Preserve, Interactive Salt Marsh, Trainer for a Day, plus much more! Also: Catered Affairs, Sleepovers, Birthday Parties, Summer Adventure Days, Arcade, Café, and Scoops Ice Cream & Candy.

Atlantis Marine World is also the home of The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation.

Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 364 days a year (Closed Christmas Day).