



## NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2009

### A WORLD OF ADVENTURE CLOSE TO HOME!

*Aquarium Offers Affordable, Family Fun - Right In Your Backyard!*

As the nation's Top 10 family Aquarium celebrates its ninth birthday, it is turning up the heat this summer with a brand new special exhibition with cool new animals, more sizzling interactive experiences, and the return of seasonal favorites.

This summer marks the launch of *Gator Invasion*, a special two-month exhibition that will be home to one 12-foot-long American alligator, along with several 3- to 4-foot-long alligators that visitors will be able to interact with (help feed and pet). Shows and interactive lectures also will be held twice a day.

Also new this summer is Sea Lion Kisses! Visitors should not miss this opportunity for a unique encounter they'll never forget – a kiss (and keepsake photo!) from one of our loveable sea lion, Java.

These are just a few of the many surprises in 2009 that await visitors.

Yo-ho-ho – this is a whole lot of fun! A fun, new interactive experience has dropped anchor at Atlantis Marine World – *Pirate Snorkel Adventure*. Captain Poseidon needs visitors' help to locate his lost treasure by finding the missing map pieces hidden at the bottom of our own lagoon stocked with plenty of tropical fish from all around the world! Guests walk away with some booty of their own – a \$2.00 arcade card good at our Family Fun Center and a commemorative pirate eye patch. Space is limited, with reservations recommended.

And if you want more, we've got it! Returning favorites are back in full swing.

Are you ready to discover the ecological wonders of Long Island's waterways aboard the Atlantis Explorer Tour Boat? This hands-on adventure takes guests down the Peconic River and into Flanders Bay while promoting environmental awareness and education about the Peconic Estuary. The boat departs three times daily (12:00pm, 2:00pm, and 4:00pm), weather permitting, with space limited.

Would you like to take to the water after hours for some grown-up adventure? Try the Taste Long Island Wine Cruise, a Saturday evening wine and cheese cruise. Featuring local wines from Raphael Vineyards, this cruise is a relaxing way to savor both beautiful scenery and fine wine. Guests 21 and older only.

Have you ever wondered what it takes to work with seals or sea lions? Find out with our Trainer Program, running now through September. Guests join our Marine Mammal staff on a Saturday for a behind-the-scenes look at our mammal program. Space is limited to guests over 10 only, with advance reservations required.

- more -

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Summer vacation can be made more special with our Adventure Days program. Week-long sessions throughout the summer offer kids 3 through 14 hands-on learning and full-on fun. Separate programs provide age-appropriate learning and activities, with kids immersed in snorkeling, kayaking, shark diving, boat tours, and many more adventures!

If you're looking to cool off on a hot summer day, we have just the place for you – our Interactive Salt Marsh. Roll up your pants, take off your shoes, and get an up-close look at Long Island's marine life. Watch as killifish glide past your toes, but be careful not to step on that rock – it just might move!

Want to know what a stingray or shark feels like? Visit our outdoor Ray Bay and find out. Guests can even help feed the inhabitants of this seasonal exhibit, with limited quantities available throughout the day.

Other outdoor attractions now open include our Family Fun Center, Scoops Ice Cream & Candy Shop, and Poseidon's Peak, complete with a 25-foot climbing wall.

And don't miss any of our special guests, visiting us daily throughout the summer. Right now, be sure to visit with the Priceless Parrot Preserve, the only 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in New York dedicated to the permanent care of abused, unwanted, exotic birds. A special sleepover event is also scheduled for Tuesday, July 7. Aquarium fans can celebrate Independence Day with their favorite red, white, and blue creatures and see stars and stripes during their night of adventure as they sleep under their favorite exhibits and experience the Aquarium after hours. Space is limited, so interested guests must book early.

For more information about booking any of our Aquatic Adventure programs, guests can call 631.208.9200, ext. H2O (426), or visit <http://www.atlantismarineworld.com/adventures.html>.

Atlantis Marine World was recently ranked by *Parents Magazine* as one of the "Top Aquariums for Kids." The Aquarium is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

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### About Atlantis Marine World Aquarium

Atlantis Marine World (AMW) opened in Riverhead, NY on June 15, 2000, as the first large-scale Aquarium to open in New York State in more than 35 years. Situated on 3.2 acres along the Peconic River, AMW is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily (closed December 25). General Admission Rates are \$18.50 (plus tax) for Children 3 - 17 and Seniors 62+; \$21.50 (plus tax) for Adults 18 - 61; Children 2 and under are always free at AMW. AMW is also the home of The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation, New York's only authorized marine mammal and sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation center. Additional information can be found at [www.atlantismarineworld.com](http://www.atlantismarineworld.com).

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