

VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Paris Aquarium

Paris · From 22€

https://aquariumdeparis.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

From Imperial Careers to the Ocean

GOOGLE 3.9 ★★★★☆ 20 083 reviews

TIQETS 4.3 ★★★★☆ 4 050 reviews

Beneath the gardens of the Trocadéro, a fascinating story unfolds in the darkness. Built in **1878** for the Universal Exposition, this establishment holds the historical title of the world's first aquarium. Initially named the Aquarium du Trocadéro, it marked the Parisian imagination by offering visitors their first dive into marine and freshwater depths, long before technology made such immersions possible.

Even before its aquatic destiny, this underground site harbored less glorious but equally intriguing secrets. The ancient stone quarries, dug over centuries, served to house Napoleon's cavalry. The natural humidity and the mixture of straw and manure there favored the cultivation of the **Paris mushroom**, transforming these galleries into true underground farms for several decades.

The original architecture, designed by Eugène Combaz, imitated natural grottos with cement rockwork arranged between the pillars of the galleries. Although modernized for the 1937 exhibition, the aquarium suffered from decay and was closed in 1985. Its spectacular reopening in **2006** allowed this unique place to be brought back to life, now equipped with modern engineering capable of maintaining a complex ecosystem beneath the Chaillot hill.

Today, the Aquarium de Paris is much more than a simple marine zoo. It is a living testament to Parisian urban history, where the memory of the quarries dialogues with contemporary science. Each visitor descends into the city's bowels to discover how Paris has managed to transform its forgotten underbelly into a temple of life, linking the capital's industrial and agricultural past to its current cultural vocation.

THE EXPERIENCE

As soon as you cross the threshold of the entrance, the atmosphere changes dramatically. Daylight gradually fades, giving way to a bluish twilight conducive to immersion. You are no longer on the surface, but in a parallel world where time seems suspended. The relative silence, punctuated by the dull sound of water circulating through the pipes, creates a sense of absolute calm that stands in stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of Rue Albert de Mun just above.

Descending to the lower levels, you are guided along a linear path that avoids any confusion. The immaculate glass reflects the gentleness of creatures drifting slowly before your eyes. There is something deeply soothing about observing the hypnotic slowness of jellyfish or the silent majesty of sharks. Far from the tumult of major tourist attractions, this sensory experience offers a moment of pure contemplation, where one feels small in the face of the vastness of the oceans recreated beneath our feet.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS

16th arrondissement · Metro: Trocadéro (L6, L9) or Pont d'Iéna (L9), exit Jardins du Trocadéro.

OPENING HOURS

Open every day from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM. On Saturdays, late opening is available until 9:00 PM (last entry at 8:00 PM).

FARES

Adult fare approximately €24.50, child €17. Free for under 3s. Check current promotions.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 1h30 to 2h to leisurely explore the 3,500 m² underground area, including time to observe the jellyfish and the large tank.

PHOTOS

Photography is allowed without flash throughout the tour. Avoid bulky bags that may scratch the glass. Consider leaving personal items in the cloakroom if neces

AUDIENCE

Ideal for walking children from 4 years old. Adults will appreciate the historical and scientific aspects of the site, particularly the reopening of the former

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

Metro / RER

: Avenue du Président Wilson - Palais de Chaillot — 3 min à pied

Saint-Lazare Station (13 min) · Montparnasse Station (14 min)

Bus

: Modern Art Museum - Palais de Tokyo — 4 min à pied

Saint-Lazare Station (20 min) · Montparnasse Station (21 min)

Car

Saint-Lazare Station (13 min) · Montparnasse Station (14 min)

Vélib / Vélo

Saint-Lazare Station (16 min) · Montparnasse Station (17 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Paris Aquarium ?



📍 5 Avenue Albert de Mun — 75016 Paris

🌐 48°51.733′ N, 2°17.460′ E



ORGANIZATION

Understanding the Underground Circuit

Level 0 (Ground Floor)

This is where the adventure begins, in the heart of the Trocadéro Gardens. The reception hall allows you to pick up audio guides and consult the circuit map. The first rooms showcase freshwater species, providing a gentle transition before descending into the marine zones.

Main Underground Level

The heart of the experience is found in the repurposed old quarries. Here, you can discover the large 3-million-liter tank, where sharks and rays coexist with thousands of sardines. This is also where the famous Medusarium is located, featuring tanks dedicated to gelatinous creatures.

Mediation Spaces & Cinema

At the end of the main tour, educational spaces allow visitors to learn more about marine biology. A cinema room offers immersive films on the abysses, while the touch tank invites children to touch koi carp, bringing the visit to a close on an interactive note.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Disabled Access**

Easy access but stairs lead to underground levels; check the condition of the ramps.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Ideal for families with children aged 4 and up, featuring an interactive and educational tour.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Must-See Immersion Highlights

01

A space dedicated to jellyfish

The Medusarium

Opened in 2019, this venue is considered the largest jellyfish exhibition in Europe. With 45 species distributed across 24 tanks, the atmosphere is hypnotic. The pastel colors of the creatures float in dimmed darkness, offering a stunning visual spectacle.

> 💡 Each species is presented on a rotation schedule to ensure their well-being, meaning the tank composition changes regularly.

02

Main basin

The Great Indo-Pacific Basin

This 3-million-liter volume is the highlight of the visit. Manta rays, zebra sharks, and schools of sardines form a complex ecosystem maintained by precise engineering. The glass tunnel allows you to observe predators up close, with no apparent barrier.

> 💡 Managing this basin requires 100 tons of salt per year to maintain adequate salinity.

03

Interactive Space

The Tactile Pool

A special moment for families, where you can touch koi carp and gentle invertebrates. It is the ideal opportunity for children to understand the texture and behavior of marine animals. The space is secure and supervised by scientific mediators.

> 💡 The koi carp used are specifically selected for their docility and resistance to human handling.

04

CODEX URBANUS Gallery of Chimeras

The Walls of Codex Urbanus

In 2017, the urban artist took over the aquarium walls with a bestiary of aquatic chimeras. This contemporary art intervention dialogues with the concrete structures of the former quarries. The colorful frescoes add a dreamlike dimension to the scientific tour.

> 💡 This work, titled 'Codex in Fantastic Waters', was created directly on the raw walls of the structure.

05

Historical Section

The Freshwater Fish Room

Paying homage to the origins of the 1878 aquarium, this section features freshwater species such as catfish and livebearers. It recalls that the original establishment did not yet contain marine fish. The ambiance here is brighter, evoking tropical rivers.

> 💡 Some specimens present here descend directly from the original collections of the 1878 Universal Exposition.

06

Central Passage

The Underwater Tunnel

A glass-enclosed corridor that crosses the main tank, allowing visitors to walk literally underwater. The sense of vertigo is real when large sharks pass just above your head. It is one of the most popular photo spots in the facility.

> 💡 The pressure exerted on the acrylic glass is calculated to withstand considerable impacts.

07

Reef Basin

The Coral Space

A faithful reproduction of a coral reef, inhabited by clownfish, eels, and nudibranchs. The vibrant colors contrast with the dominant blue hue of the rest of the aquarium. This area illustrates the rich biodiversity of warm oceans.

> 💡 The artificial corals used are manufactured to perfectly mimic the porosity of natural corals.

08

Cinema

The Immersive Cinema Room

A high-definition projection on a curved screen allows you to dive into the abysses or the polar regions without leaving the aquarium. Complete documentary films provide narrative depth to the observations made in the tanks. It is a restful break before resurfacing.

> 💡 The spatial audio system creates the illusion of being surrounded by the sounds of the ocean.

TIPS

Preparing Your Descent Properly

TIMING

Come early in the morning, from 9:30 AM, to enjoy a calmer atmosphere and avoid crowds, especially if you want to photograph the Medusarium without obstructions.

TICKET

Be sure to book online to enjoy the promotional rate (up to 20% off) and guarantee your access, especially during peak season and on weekends.

TOUR

Follow the mandatory linear route without taking any detours; it is optimized to naturally lead you from the freshwater tanks to the marine highlights, such as the large tank.

PHOTO

Use video mode rather than still photo to capture the fluid movement of jellyfish; flash is prohibited, so adjust your device's brightness manually.

BREAK

Remember to eat before entering or use the restaurant located on the upper floor, as fast food options inside the quarries are limited.

CHILDREN

Wear comfortable shoes and avoid bulky bags that may scratch the glass; the touch pool is the highlight for capturing young children's attention.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in French, English, and Spanish; it is very useful for understanding the biological specificities of the species, particularly in the Medusarium.

COMFORT

The temperature is constant and slightly cool in the basement; bring a light jacket if you are coming from outside during hot weather, and check accessibility for people with reduced mobility if necessary.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I really need to book in advance?

Yes, highly recommended during peak season (July/August) and on weekends to guarantee a slot. On weekdays outside holiday periods, direct access is possible but may involve a wait. Booking online secures your entry and a

How far in advance can I cancel?

Cancellation conditions vary depending on the formula chosen and are indicated before payment. Read them carefully, then check the date and time slot before confirming, as some formulas are non-refundable.

Is there a promotion running?

Discounts are often offered for groups or tickets purchased online. Keep an eye on the 'Promotions' section on the official website. Buying in advance online generally offers the best price compared to the ticket counter

Can I buy tickets on site?

Yes, the reception sells tickets directly. However, during busy periods like summer, it is better to book in advance to avoid queues in front of the Jardins du Trocadéro. Slots are limited.

How long does the visit take?

Plan for between 1h30 and 2 hours for a complete discovery. The linear 3 500 m² route allows you to go at your own pace, especially in front of the Medusarium where it is easy to linger over the 45 species presented.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Napoleon's Legacy

Long before housing fish, these galleries sheltered the imperial cavalry. The mixture of straw and manure in the humidity of the quarries created the perfect conditions for cultivating **Paris mushrooms**, making this site a major underground agricultural production center in the 19th century.

A historic world record

Built in 1878, the Trocadéro Aquarium was officially the **world's first aquarium**. Although other establishments exist today, it retains this historical title thanks to its inauguration date during the Universal Exposition, marking the beginning of the modern era of public aquaristics.

Urban art beneath the waves

In 2017, artist Codex Urbanus created a monumental fresco on the raw walls of the quarries. This work, depicting **aquatic chimeras**, fuses street art with marine biology, adding a surrealist narrative layer to the visitor's scientific experience.

Swimming with sharks

In November 2012, swimmer Pierre Frolla swam with 25 sharks in the large pool. This media event aimed to raise public awareness about the protection of these often misunderstood predators, demonstrating that human and marine coexistence is possible with respect.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The Aquarium's location is strategic, nestled within the **Jardins du Trocadéro**. Before or after your visit, take advantage of the opportunity to admire the breathtaking view of the Eiffel Tower, visible from just a few hundred meters away. These landscaped gardens offer an ideal setting for a sunny lunch break or a romantic stroll. Nearby, the Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac provides a perfect cultural complement to extend your day. For a refined dinner, the nearby Café de Paris offers traditional French cuisine that will beautifully conclude your exploration of this iconic neighborhood in the 16th arrondissement.



Leaving the Paris Aquarium is like ascending back toward the light of the Trocadéro, with the feeling of having touched the invisible. This place reminds us that Paris still hides a thousand treasures beneath its cobblestones. Whether you came for the magic of **jellyfish** or for the history of the quarries, this immersion will remain etched in your memory as a precious souvenir. Leave with the image of these fragile yet powerful beings, silent witnesses to an exceptional urban heritage.