

The Ocean We Want To Know

Our ocean is the source of continual inspiration, and incredible discoveries. There is much to learn about the stuff that covers 71% of our planet and remains mostly unexplored. Here are some facts, based on locations in our World Oceans Day video, to whet your appetite for adventure.

YOSEMITE

- The water in Yosemite Falls runs all the way to the ocean via rivers.
- Everyone lives in a watershed of some sort, so everyone's actions affect the ocean.



CALIFORNIA KELP FOREST

- Kelp habitats are the rainforests of the ocean—they enable tons of species to thrive.
- Kelp can grow two feet per day, and algin, a kelp product, is an important ingredient in ice cream, toothpaste and many other items.



HAWAII

- Mauna Kea is 33,476 feet high—taller than Mt. Everest—from seafloor to summit.
- Because Hawaii is so isolated, it is home to many species found nowhere else on earth.
- Hawaii lies within a swirling system of currents called the North Pacific Gyre.



MARIANA TRENCH

- Challenger Deep, in the Mariana Trench, is the deepest place on earth, 6.8 miles down.
- Light only reaches through the top 200 meters of water, so most of the ocean is pitch black, but many animals in the deep sea make their own light.
- Humans visited Challenger Deep in 1960. Nobody returned until James Cameron's solo descent in March 2012, 52 years later, and scientists still don't know what lives there.

GREAT BARRIER REEF

- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on earth, at 1,615 miles (2,300km) long, and was made by billions of individual corals growing over thousands of years.
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park protects an area the size of Germany.

ANTARCTICA AND THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

- The Circumpolar Current in the Southern Ocean flows all the way around Antarctica.
- It has some of the world's strongest winds and largest waves, estimated at 46 ft. (14 m).
- While Antarctica has little life and no land mammals, the Southern Ocean is full of life and hosts more than 20 marine mammals.



SARGASSO SEA

- The Sargasso Sea is the only sea with no shores, and is defined by North Atlantic currents.
- Floating mats of seaweed Sargassum support baby animals like turtles and eels.

ARCTIC OCEAN

- The ice of the Northwest Passage has largely melted, opening a new sea route from the Atlantic to the Pacific, which explorers sought for hundreds of years.
- The Arctic Ocean teems with life, from polar bears, to fish, whales, seals and sea birds.

