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Tennessee Aquarium, River Gorge Explorer & IMAX 3D® Theater

*Take an amazing journey from the mountains to the sea
at the nation's highest rated aquarium*

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – The Chattanooga skyline features six magnificent glass peaks that top the Tennessee Aquarium's River Journey and Ocean Journey buildings. More than 1,500 miles separate the streams of the Appalachian Mountains from the Gulf of Mexico, but visitors to the Tennessee Aquarium can make the trip in just a few hours and even experience Tennessee's Grand Canyon aboard the Aquarium's high-speed boat, the River Gorge Explorer.

The Tennessee Aquarium is proud to be named the nation's top aquarium based on Impacts 2010 independent, nationwide guest satisfaction survey of more than 30,000 recent visitors to U.S. attractions.

The Aquarium's awe-inspiring, self-guided tour follows the path of a tiny raindrop from a cove forest high in the Appalachian Mountains to a colorful coral reef in the blue depths of the Gulf of Mexico. Along the way, Aquarium visitors "take a walk on the wild side" discovering walk-through forests, touch tank experiences and daily animal encounter programs designed to get guests face-to-face with fascinating animals from around the world at Ranger Rick's Backyard Safari.

"From the free-flying song birds in River Journey's Cove Forest to the Undersea Cavern and Butterfly Garden in the new Ocean Journey building, the Tennessee Aquarium combines both freshwater and

saltwater habitats to give visitors an experience unlike any other,” said Charlie Arant, Tennessee Aquarium president and CEO.

Meet feisty otters, trophy-sized trout, giant catfish, prehistoric sturgeon, colorful frogs, salamanders, toothy alligators and 75 species of turtles in the original River Journey Building.

In the 2005 expansion, Ocean Journey, visitors explore tropical habitats and the saltwater world. From the chilly, sub-Antarctic waters of playful penguins to the warmer sea currents patrolled by 10-foot sharks, visitors encounter amazing animals above and beneath the waves. Marine creatures like graceful stingrays and a multitude of beautiful fish glide through amazing coral formations in the Aquarium’s Secret Reef exhibit.

“Imagine gazing into a coral reef teeming with 10-foot-long sharks, a giant sea turtle and a mosaic of colorful fish,” said Jackson Andrews, Aquarium director of husbandry and operations. “The size and design of these exhibits gives our visitors the chance to experience an ecosystem in a way that, until now, only divers could.”

Guests also meet cuttlefish, hyacinth macaws, jellyfish and the fluttering jewels of nature – butterflies within Ocean Journey.

Tennessee River Gorge Explorer

The Aquarium experience is deepened by an excursion aboard the Tennessee River Gorge Explorer. This 70 passenger high-speed boat whisks passengers swiftly downstream from downtown Chattanooga to experience Tennessee’s Grand Canyon – the Tennessee River Gorge. Designated as a United Nations Biosphere Reserve, this protected habitat is home to an amazing array of plants and animals. An Aquarium naturalist leads each voyage, pointing out wildlife and recounting much of the area’s rich history including details about how the Tennessee River played a role during the Civil War.

“This thrilling journey and the Aquarium’s focus on research and conservation efforts help connect people to the natural world in a meaningful way,” Arant said.

IMAX 3D Theater

Combination ticketing is available to add an IMAX 3D film to complete every Tennessee Aquarium experience. The six-story screen is the only one in Chattanooga large enough to show a life-sized blue whale as big as a school bus. As a result, visitors find themselves immersed in the most engaging movie experience in the region. Plunge into an underwater adventure or travel to the most distant points in the universe.

Facility Rental

Experience an unforgettable after-hours adventure while hosting your wedding reception, holiday party or corporate event at the Tennessee Aquarium. The Aquarium, IMAX 3D Theater and River Gorge Explorer offer a variety of unique venues to choose from.

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The Tennessee Aquarium inspires wonder, appreciation and protection of water and all life that it sustains. Admission is \$24.95 per adult and \$14.95 per child, ages 3-12. Each ticket purchased helps support Aquarium conservation programs. The IMAX® 3D Theater is next door to the Aquarium. Ticket prices are \$8.50 per adult and \$6.00 per child. Aquarium/IMAX combo tickets are \$29.95 for adults and \$19.95 for children. Excursions aboard the new River Gorge Explorer depart daily into "Tennessee's Grand Canyon." Advance tickets may be purchased online at www.tnaqua.org or by phone at 1-800-262-0695. The Aquarium, located on the banks of the Tennessee River in Chattanooga, is a non-profit organization. Open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Aquarium and IMAX are accessible to people with disabilities.

ONLINE press kits & downloadable images:

<http://www.tnaqua.org/News/Newsroom.aspx>