

OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

l'Oceanogràfic Valencia

València · From 43.05€

https://oceanografic.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

Architectural Marvel and Marine Legacy

GOOGLE 4.6 ★★★★★ 107 849 reviews

TIQETS 4.7 ★★★★★ 2 688 reviews

The Oceanogràfic stands as a monumental tribute to marine life, nestled within the futuristic **City of Arts and Sciences**. Conceived by the visionary Hispano-Mexican architect **Félix Candela**, this complex is a posthumous masterpiece, completed after his death in 1997. The design ingeniously mimics giant water lilies, with reinforced concrete structures that seem to float above the dry riverbed of the Turia. This architectural choice was not merely aesthetic but functional, allowing for massive spans without internal pillars, creating an open, fluid space for visitors.

Opened on **February 14, 2003**, the aquarium quickly became one of Europe's most significant aquatic complexes. It holds a staggering capacity of **42 million liters** of water, making it one of the largest in the continent. This immense volume allows for the faithful reproduction of various marine ecosystems, from the icy Arctic to the warm Mediterranean. The project was initially managed by Parques Reunidos before transitioning to the private consortium Avanqua in 2015, ensuring its continued evolution and maintenance.

Beyond its size, the Oceanogràfic is renowned for its unique biological holdings. It is the **only facility in Europe** housing belugas, featuring the famous pair Kairo and Yulka. Additionally, it is one of only three European institutions displaying walruses, alongside Harderwijk and Pairi Daiza. These rare species highlight the center's commitment to showcasing biodiversity that cannot be found elsewhere on the continent, drawing enthusiasts from across the globe.

The institution plays a vital role in conservation through its membership in the **European Association of Zoos**. It actively participates in breeding programs for endangered species and coordinates studbooks for critically endangered sawfish. Through the Fundación Oceanogràfic, it supports both ex situ and in situ conservation efforts, bridging the gap between public education and scientific preservation. This dual mission ensures that the Oceanogràfic is not just a tourist attraction but a beacon for marine protection.

THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping into the Oceanogràfic feels like crossing a threshold into another world. The air grows cooler, carrying the faint scent of salt and damp stone, while the ambient noise shifts to the gentle hum of filtration systems and distant splashes. The architecture envelops you; the curved white walls and expansive glass panels create a sense of weightlessness, as if you are already submerged. Light filters through the translucent roofs, casting soft, rippling shadows that mimic the movement of water on the surface.

As you walk beneath the main tunnel, the reality of the deep ocean becomes visceral. Sharks glide silently overhead, their powerful bodies cutting through the dimly lit water. The sheer scale of the tanks induces a moment of awe, where the boundary between observer and observed dissolves. It is a place of quiet wonder, where the majesty of marine life commands respect and silence, offering a profound connection to the planet's blue heart.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Practical Information

ADDRESS
Cité des Arts et des Sciences · EMT Bus: Lines 60, 61, 70, 71, 72 stop 'Ciudad de las Artes'. Avoid driving in summer.

OPENING HOURS
Hours vary by season and Valencian school holidays. Check exact time slots on the official website before booking.

PRICES
From €43.05. Child/senior discounts available. Mandatory QR code named tickets.

VISIT DURATION
Allow at least 3 to 4 hours to explore all biomes and attend a show. Allow more if combining with the neighboring museum.

PHOTOS
Photography allowed without flash or tripod in the tanks. Use night mode under the tunnel to capture sharks quietly.

AUDIENCE
Ideal for families (strollers accepted) and nature lovers. Wheelchair accessible, but outdoor level changes possible between buildings.

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & Transportation

Metro

Valencia Airport (35 min) · Oceanogràfic (6 min)

Bus
: Ciutat Arts i Ciències - Justícia — 6 min à pied
Valencia Airport (56 min) · Oceanogràfic (8 min)

Car

Valencia Airport (43 min) · Oceanogràfic (3 min)

Bike

Valencia Airport (58 min) · Oceanogràfic (2 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve l'Oceanogràfic Valencia ?



📍 Carrer d'Eduardo Primo Yúfera — 46013 València

🌐 39°27.163′ N, 0°20.884′ O



ORGANIZATION

Navigating the Biomes

Main Tunnel & Entrance

Start your journey here, walking beneath the massive central tank. Observe large sharks and rays gliding overhead in the dimly lit environment. This area sets the tone for the visit, offering immediate immersion into the deep sea atmosphere.

Arctic Biome (Iglou)

Enter the igloo-shaped structure dedicated to polar species. Begin on the upper level to view belugas and walruses from above, then descend to the lower level for underwater perspectives. This double viewpoint reveals the fluid movements of these majestic mammals.

Mediterranean & Tropical Zones

Explore the diverse habitats ranging from coral reefs to mangroves. This section includes the penguinarium, aviary, and reptile areas. Follow the logical route to avoid backtracking, ending with the dolphin shows at the Delphinarium.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

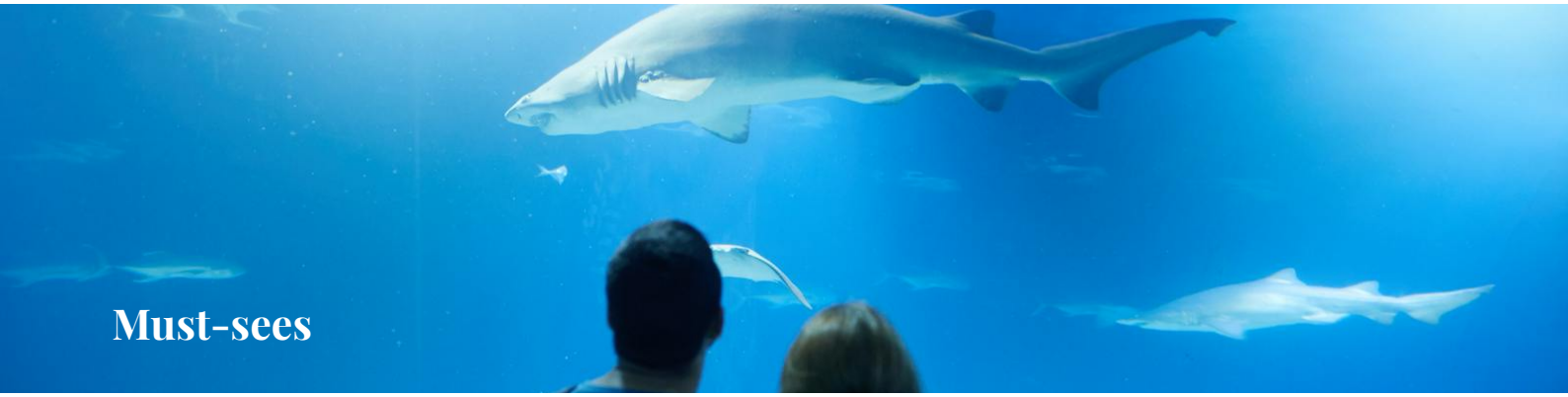
PMR access ensured in main buildings; caution advised on exterior level changes between pavilions.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Ideal for families: strollers accepted, adapted restrooms, outdoor play area.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



Must-sees

SELECTION

Unmissable Aquatic Encounters

01 Arctic Biome

Beluga Whale Tank

Witness the **only belugas in Europe**, Kairo and Yulka, in their spacious habitat. Their playful behavior and vocalizations offer a unique insight into cetacean intelligence. View them from both above and below for a complete perspective.

> 💡 These whales were imported from Argentina after being captured in the Sea of Okhotsk. They produced a calf in 2016, highlighting successful breeding programs.

02 Central Hall

Underwater Tunnel

Walk beneath the **largest tank in Europe**, home to massive sharks and rays. The dim lighting creates a dramatic effect, emphasizing the power and grace of these apex predators. Use night mode for photos to capture their swift movements.

> 💡 The tunnel is part of a system holding 42 million liters of water, making it one of the most significant aquatic installations on the continent.

03 Arctic Biome

Walrus Habitat

Observe rare **walruses**, shared by only three European facilities. These massive mammals share the arctic space with belugas and seals. Watch them haul out on rocks or swim gracefully underwater.

> 💡 The Oceanogràfic is one of the few places in Europe where you can see walruses, alongside Harderwijk and Pairi Daiza, making this a rare opportunity.

04 Delphinarium

Dolphin Show

Enjoy the spectacular performances of **bottlenose dolphins** in Europe's largest dedicated basin. With 26 million liters of water and 11 meters of depth, the animals perform complex maneuvers. Arrive early to secure a good seat.

> 💡 The Delphinarium hosts five shows daily, attracting thousands of spectators. The basin's size allows for natural behaviors rarely seen in smaller facilities.

05

Penguinarium

Penguin Colony

Visit the **Adélie and Humboldt penguins** in their simulated Antarctic habitat. These charming birds are often seen waddling on land or diving swiftly in the water. The enclosure offers close-up views of their social interactions.

> 💡 Penguins are classified as near-threatened, and the Oceanogràfic participates in conservation programs to support their populations in the wild.

06

Wetlands Zone

Aviary Sphere

Enter the spherical **aviary**, standing 26 meters high. It replicates American mangroves and Mediterranean marshes, home to spoonbills, herons, and ibises. Birds fly freely overhead, creating a dynamic and lively atmosphere.

> 💡 The structure's design allows for natural light penetration, enhancing the realism of the wetland environment and supporting the health of the bird species.

07

Mediterranean Zone

Sea Turtle Tanks

Watch **sea turtles** swimming gracefully in clear waters. These ancient reptiles are crucial indicators of ocean health. The tanks provide educational information about their migration patterns and conservation status.

> 💡 The Oceanogràfic actively participates in rescuing and rehabilitating injured sea turtles, contributing to regional conservation efforts.

08

Exotic Zone

Reptile House

Discover diverse reptiles including **African false gharials** and Seychelles giant tortoises. This section highlights the importance of freshwater ecosystems. Interactive displays explain the biology and habits of these fascinating creatures.

> 💡 The giant tortoises are among the oldest animals in the complex, serving as living links to prehistoric times and inspiring curiosity in young visitors.

TIPS

Smart Strategies for Your Visit

TIMING

Arrive early, especially for the dolphin shows. The Delphinarium has limited seating (2000 spots), so arriving 30 minutes before guarantees a good view. Latecomers often stand or miss key moments.

BILLET

Book online in advance to avoid queues. Combined tickets with the Science Museum and Hemisfèric offer significant savings. Check for child and senior discounts when purchasing.

PARCOURS

Follow the logical route: start with the main tunnel, then explore the Arctic biome, followed by the Mediterranean zones, and finish with the reptiles. This avoids backtracking through narrow corridors.

PHOTO

Use night mode or stabilization for photos under the tunnel. The low light requires higher shutter speeds to capture fast-moving sharks. Avoid flash, which disturbs the animals and other visitors.

PAUSE

Book lunch at Restaurante Submarino well in advance. Eating facing the shark tank is a unique experience. Expect around €25 per person, and choose tables near the windows for the best views.

ENFANTS

Bring a light sweater for children, especially in the Arctic zone where temperatures are kept low. Strollers are accepted, and there are adapted restrooms and outdoor play areas for families.

AUDIOGUIDE

Consider renting an audioguide available in English, French, and Spanish. It provides detailed insights into each species and ecosystem, enhancing the educational value of the visit, particularly for older children.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes as you will walk extensively. In summer, the indoor air conditioning is a relief, but bring a jacket for the cold Arctic sections. Avoid driving; use EMT bus lines 60-72 to reach the site easily.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Is it better to book online or on-site?

Online booking is highly recommended, especially during peak season. It guarantees your entry and avoids the sometimes long queues at the ticket office. Additionally, rates may be slightly reduced or offer more flexibili

Can you combine Oceanogràfic with the Science Museum?

Yes, combined tickets exist for Oceanogràfic, the Science Museum, and Hemisfèric. They allow for significant savings compared to separate purchases. Be sure to check the exact content of each offer when purchasing.

Are the tickets refundable?

It depends on the type of ticket purchased. Some offers are non-refundable for a reduced price, while others offer flexible cancellation. Always consult the specific terms and conditions before validating your payment.

Is there a current promotion?

Seasonal promotions or combined offers appear regularly. Keep an eye on the official website or newsletters for temporary discounts. Valencian residents also benefit from special rates upon presentation of proof of resid

How long does it take to visit Oceanogràfic?

Allow approximately 3 to 4 hours for a complete visit including the different biomes and a show. If you also wish to see the adjacent Science Museum, plan for a full day. Take your time to enjoy the details.

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Félix Candela's Vision

The Oceanogràfic is a posthumous work by **Félix Candela**, who died in 1997. His design features reinforced concrete structures resembling giant water lilies, fusing architecture with nature. This innovative approach minimizes internal supports, creating vast, open spaces for visitors.

Conservation Leader

As a member of the **European Association of Zoos**, the Oceanogràfic actively conserves endangered species. It coordinates studbooks for critically endangered sawfish and supports field conservation through the Fundación Oceanogràfic, bridging science and public awareness.

Unique Beluga Home

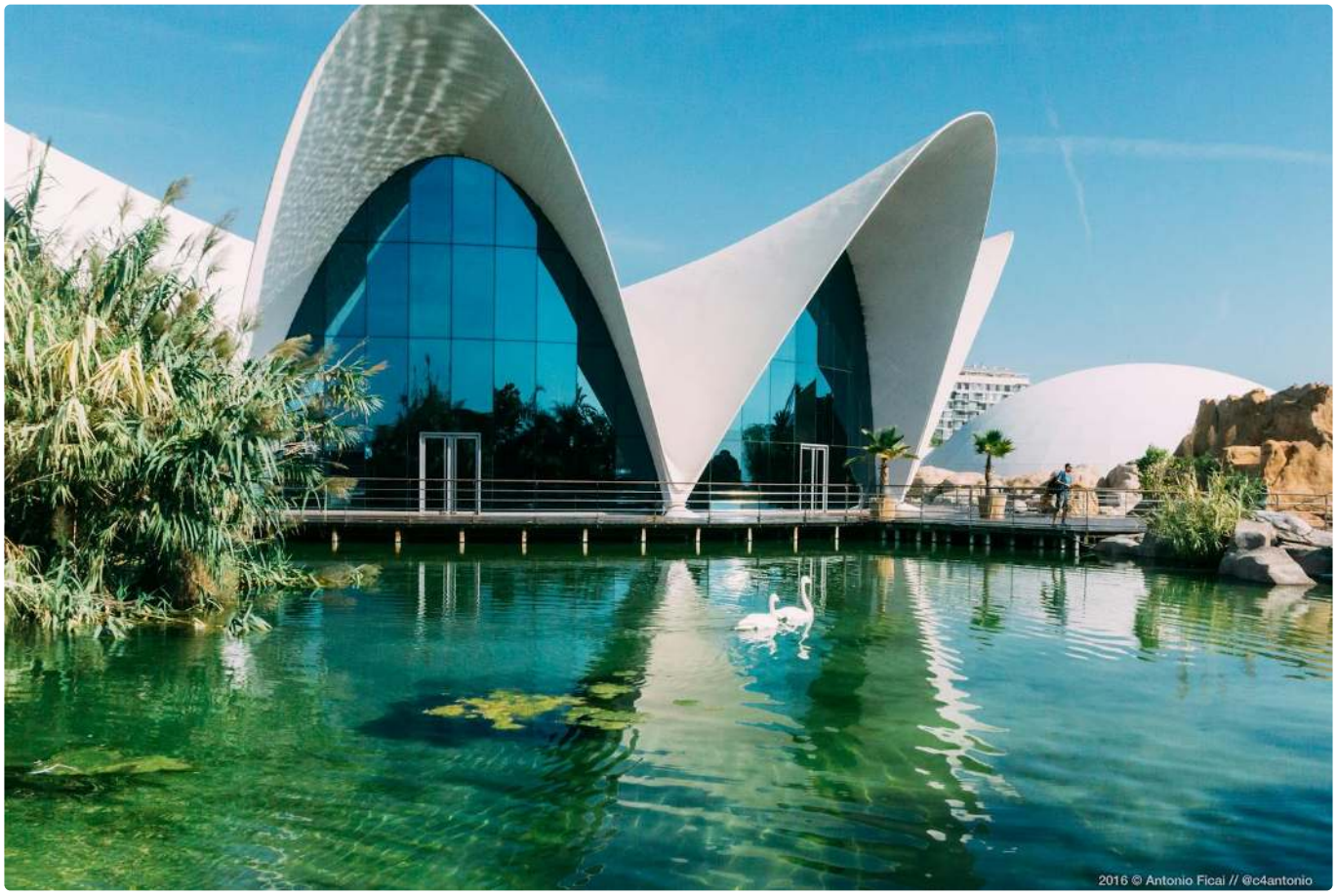
It is the **only facility in Europe** housing belugas. The pair Kairo and Yulka, imported from Argentina, have become icons of the aquarium. Their presence draws international attention and underscores the center's role in preserving rare marine mammals.

Massive Water Capacity

With **42 million liters** of water, the Oceanogràfic is one of Europe's largest aquatic complexes. This volume supports approximately 500 fish species and various marine mammals, allowing for realistic ecosystem reproduction and animal welfare.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

The Oceanogràfic is part of the vibrant **City of Arts and Sciences**, a cultural hub in Valencia. After your visit, explore the neighboring **Prince Felipe Science Museum** for interactive exhibits designed by Santiago Calatrava, or catch an immersive show at the **Hemisfèric** planetarium. For a relaxing stroll, wander through the **Jardín del Turia**, a lush linear park built in the former riverbed, perfect for a picnic or bike ride. If you're hungry, dine at the **Restaurante Submarino** inside the aquarium for a unique meal facing the shark tank, or head to nearby restaurants in the city center for authentic Valencian paella. The area is easily accessible via EMT buses, making it convenient to combine science, nature, and culture in one day.



Leaving the Oceanogràfic, you carry more than memories; you carry a renewed sense of responsibility toward our oceans. The encounter with these majestic creatures—**belugas, sharks, and dolphins**—is not just entertainment but a call to action. Valencia's treasure reminds us that the sea is not distant, but integral to our existence. Let this visit inspire you to protect the delicate balance of marine ecosystems, ensuring that future generations can also witness this underwater magic.