

FAMILY FESTIVAL: OCEANS



Join us this half-term (13 – 15 February) for a festival of family-friendly fun. Enjoy ocean-themed shows, hands-on activities, storytelling and art workshops that will inspire and amaze you.



- 1 The Little Mermaid and Other Fishy Tales
- 2 John Murray (historical character)
- 3 Hands-on Nature: Corals and Coral Art Workshop
- 4 Build a Plesiosaur
- 5 Operation Earth and I'm a Scientist
- 6 Ocean Shows
- 7 Whales: Beneath the surface (admission charge applies)



WHAT'S ON 13 – 15 FEBRUARY

Puppet Shows

Marine Invertebrates gallery

The Little Mermaid and Other Fishy Tales

Explore biodiversity in the ocean in this fun, interactive puppet show. Suitable for ages 1-6. (Limited spaces – first come, first served: 11.30, 13.00 and 14.00)

Coral reefs

Darwin Centre – Zoology spirit building

Hands-on Nature: Corals Handle real coral specimens and find out how these curious animals live.

(Drop-in activity: 11.00–16.00)

Coral Art Workshop Create your own wearable textile coral model hat. (Drop-in activity: 11.00–13.00 and 14.00–16.00)

Spirit Collection Tours

Darwin Centre – Zoology spirit building

Go behind the scenes and explore the Museum's fascinating zoology collection preserved in spirit, including Archie the giant squid. (Limited spaces, not suitable for under 8s, £10 per person: 11.30, 12.30, 13.30 and 15.30)

Oceans Past

Darwin Centre Atrium

Build a Plesiosaur Have you ever wondered how scientists put fossil skeletons together? This is your opportunity to find out! (Drop-in activity: 11.00–17.00)

Ocean Explorers

Flett Events Theatre and Foyer

Operation Earth Explore the exciting world of environmental science in this action-packed science show with lots of giant demonstrations. (Limited spaces – first come, first served: 11.15, 12.15, 13.15, 14.15 and 15.15)

I'm a Scientist What does a scientist look like?

They might look just like you! Find out what tools and equipment our scientists use when exploring the natural world and work out what you would need to bring on your own science field trip. Take part in our drawing workshop where you can imagine yourself as a scientist exploring our planet. (Drop in activity: 11.00–17.00)

Hintze Hall

John Murray: The First Ocean Scientist

Meet Gallery Character John Murray, the world's first ocean scientist and discover the challenges of exploring the oceans during the Victorian era.

(Drop-in activity: 11.00–12.30 and 13.30–16.00)

Ocean Shows

Attenborough Studio

Adventure to the Deep Come on an adventure and help our scientists explore the seas, from the sunlit corals to the murky depths. Don't forget to pack your deep-sea diving suit. (Limited spaces – first come, first served: 10.45, 11.45, 12.45 and 13.45)

Extreme Sharks They've been on the planet for millions of years, but what makes sharks so special and how are they adapted to survive? Find out and meet one of our shark scientists. (Limited spaces – first come, first served: Tuesday 13 at 15.00)

Wonderful Whales Explore the world of whales and meet one of our whale scientists. See how these amazing animals are adapted to their environments and find out whether you have what it takes to make it as a whale. (Limited spaces – first come, first served: Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 at 15.00)

Investigate Centre

11.00–16.30 every day

The Investigate Centre is filled with fascinating ocean specimens as well as scientific tools to investigate them. Have a go at investigating yourself. (Drop-in activity: 11.00–16.30)

Whales: Beneath the surface

Waterhouse Gallery

Kids go Free in February Dive through one of the world's most compelling evolutionary journeys in this family exhibition. (Admission charge applies – accompanied children go free in February, ask a member of staff for details)

Plus many more activities across the Museum, ask a member of staff for more information on the day. Continue your journey online at nhm.ac.uk/oceans.