

AQUATIC ANIMAL HABITATS AT SEA WORLD, GOLD COAST

Natureworks In action



Village Roadshow Theme Parks – Sea World



Sea World Drive, Main Beach, Gold Coast, QLD 4217, Australia



2003

PROJECT CASE STUDY



Aquatic animal habitats at Sea World, Gold Coast





Sharing the magic of marine life

At Sea World marine park on Queensland's Gold Coast, visitors can get up close to polar bears, penguins, sharks and other marine creatures. They can also enjoy a variety of animal shows, educational talks and fun theme park rides.

Natureworks has been privileged to complete a number of projects that help Sea World promote awareness of the planet's amazing marine life. We are proud of our extensive naturalistic habitats for marine animals such as sea lions, sharks, and polar bears. These habitats emulate the animals' natural environment while allowing for practical park management and memorable visitor experiences.

Some of our key projects for Sea World include:

- *Polar Bear Shores* – an Arctic themed habitat for polar bears, with rocks, waterfalls and pools
- *Shark Bay* – an aquarium habitat for sharks and other animals, with artificial corals and rocks
- *Lasseter's Lost Mine* – a log flume ride with mountain and cave structures

"The welfare and wellbeing of the animals is our highest priority at Sea World. Our ambassador animals educate and inspire our guests to make change in their lives to help conserve species."

Sea World



Visitors enjoy the Shark Bay viewing experience (Image: Sea World)



Polar Bear Shores – a polar bear explores its habitat



Lasseter's Lost Mine ride (now closed)



Polar Bear Shores

The polar bear habitat Natureworks developed for Sea World was based around an ‘Arctic Summer’ theme. Our challenge was to build a habitat in subtropical Queensland for animals whose natural environment is the frozen cold of the Arctic. The bears’ living quarters and viewing areas had to be of such excellence that people would think “aren’t the polar bears lucky to be living here!”.

The bears love their marine habitat!

The completed polar bear exhibit is full of toys and other pursuits to enrich the bears’ “working day” and keep them entertained. There are waterfalls, tree trunks, and a swimming pool that can be seen from the viewing platform underneath.

The artificial rock provides a solid playground for bears to climb and play, and looks real enough to immerse visitors in the Arctic experience.



Visitors have a clear view of the polar bears basking on rocks



A polar bear enjoys a cool dip in the artificial rock pool



Waterfall feature



Entrance to Polar Bear Shores, with artificial rock



Skilful rockwork – functional, beautiful, and made to last

Polar Bear Shores is a skilfully made, beautifully decorated habitat custom-built by Natureworks. All the rockwork was made from glass fibre reinforced cement (GFRC) panels taken from moulds of real rock faces.

Natureworks has particular expertise in making artificial rocks that not only look realistic, they are also fit for purpose. The project involved a mix of technical expertise and creative vision, taking our team of highly skilled artisans around 4 months to build.

Although the habitat was constructed in 2003, the bears, staff and visitors are still enjoying it more than 20 years later.

The images on this page and the following page show the project at various stages of construction.



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Shark Bay

The Natureworks team built the Shark Bay attraction for Sea World in 2003. We created a beautiful wildlife aquarium habitat enclosure with artificial rockwork and coral.

Constructed over six months, the formed rockwork created rock-like habitats for the shark and pelagic oceanarium, as well as the coral reef habitat tank. We fabricated over 10,000 artificial corals to complete the coral bommie diving lagoons, along with kelps, giant clams and numerous soft corals.

An immersive visitor experience

We created a diving lagoon that allows visitors to swim freely in a rich coral reef environment. This is literally an immersive experience!

The public can also get close to live marine organisms via a shallow touch pool, and view the sharks and marine life through large glass panels in the aquarium.

“You’ll come face to face with impressive sharks that glide past the huge windows offering a glimpse into the world of one of the ocean’s top predators in the massive Shark Lagoon. This two-level exhibit offers incredible viewing both topside and underwater.”

Sea World



Aerial view of Shark Bay, showing the lagoon



Viewing the aquarium



Entrance to Shark Bay



The inviting lagoon...



A shark glides above a coral reef

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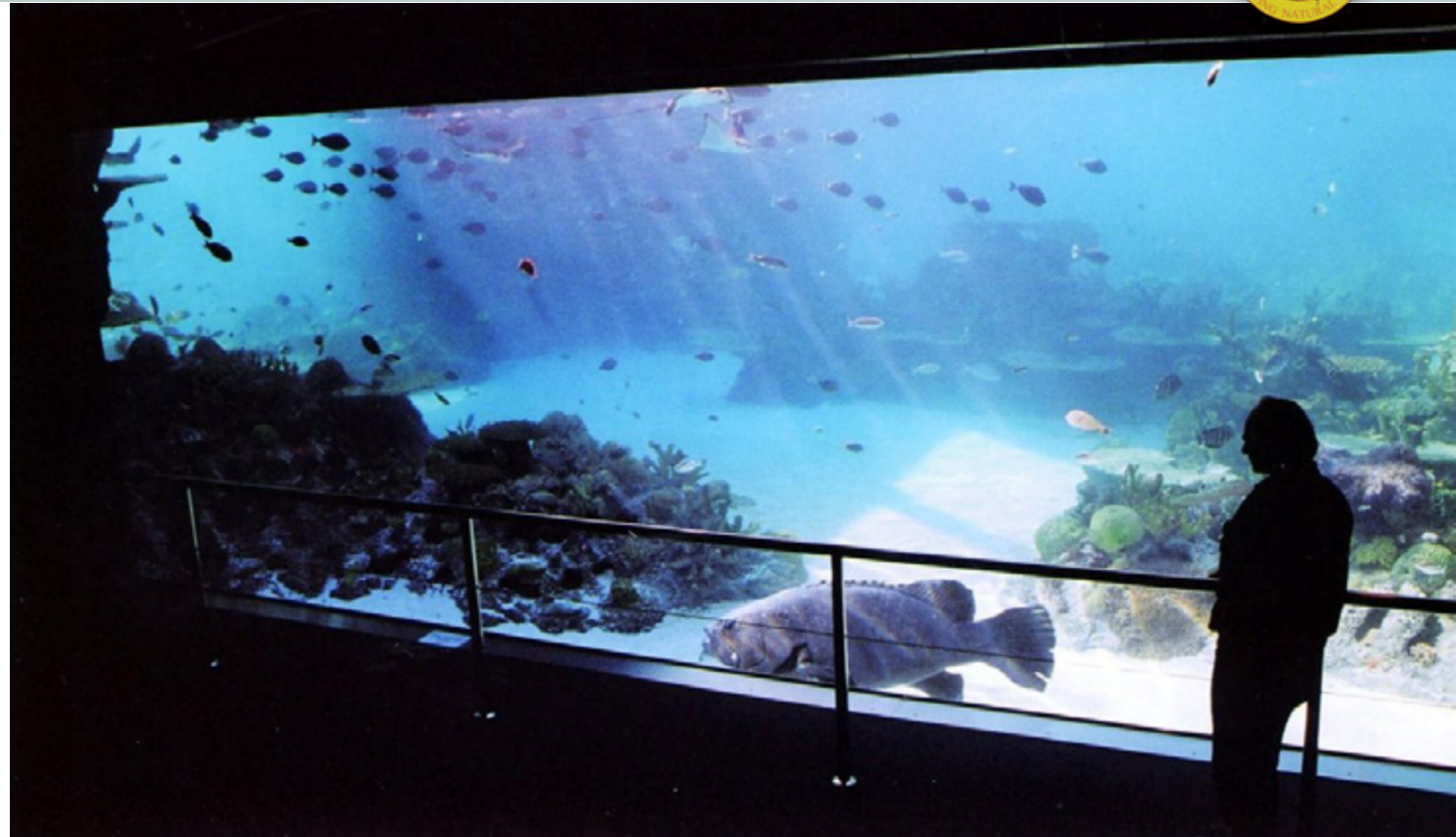


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Beautiful, practical marine habitats

Our animal habitats inspired by natural ecosystems and animal needs don't just provide suitable living environments for wildlife, they help to connect people with the wonders of the natural world.

Contact Natureworks to discuss animal habitats and themed props for wildlife parks, aquariums, theme parks or nature-based visitor attractions.