

# L'Océanogràfic - Europe's Biggest Aquarium

L'Océanogràfic opened its doors in 2003, and was an immediate hit. The price of entrance isn't cheap, but you could easily spend all day here. And you'll need to, if you plan on seeing everything. This is the largest oceanarium in Europe, with sections dedicated to the Red Sea, the Arctic, the Mediterranean, coral reefs, mangrove forests, tropical waters and the oceans. There's an auditorium, a dolphinarium, a spherical bird sanctuary and multiple restaurants. Grumble about the ticket price all you want, but by the end of the day it's hard to deny you got your money's worth.



Most of l'Océanogràfic is below-ground, in a series of massive tanks where you can watch the animals, and even interact with them. Yulka, one of the aquarium's two belugas, is famous for her friendly curiosity about life outside the tank. She'll hover before the glass, watching as much as being watched, and is a real show-off with her tricks and games.

In fact, most of the animals within l'Océanogràfic seem relatively happy. The seals, for example, are downright joyful. Or possibly insane. It's not encouraged by the staff, but these guys will actively play with spectators, flipping, rolling, diving and jumping, almost on command.