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ROMANCE IS IN THE WATER

Aquarium Offers Adult Sleepovers and Candle-Lit Serenades for Enticing “Gifts of Love” this Valentine’s Day

Baltimore, Md. (January 7, 2003)—Romance is in the water at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and couples of all stages can experience memorable escapades among the splendor of the sea throughout the Valentine’s season.

The Aquarium’s **Adults-Only Sleepover** is the perfect setting to ignite new sparks or rekindle old flames. During a guided tour through the Aquarium, couples will discover what the animals do after dark--the unique ways they meet, mate and duplicate. Beer, wine, snacks and breakfast are provided. **The sleepover begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 7, and ends at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, February 8.** Advanced reservations are required – must be 21 or older. Pricing information is available by calling 410-727-FISH.

For Valentine’s sizzle without soaking the budget, the Aquarium offers **musical serenades and dessert by candlelight** at its *Sweet Indulgence Cove* for only \$10.00 per couple on Friday, Feb. 14 after 5:00 p.m. The evening continues with a self-guided tour through the galleries where visitors discover fishes that can change gender from female to male as well as animals that can reproduce in more than one way. Additional information is available by calling 410-576-3800.

The Aquarium’s **Immersion Tours**, on weekends and select weekdays, provide a stimulating experience for all. Two current offerings include Premium Gallery Tours and Dolphin Discovery Tours.

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Premium Gallery Tours enable couples to enter before the Aquarium opens, providing a cozier atmosphere for love. These intimately guided tours include breakfast, followed by visits to the Aquarium's most popular exhibits, including a little horseplay at the blockbuster *Seahorses: Beyond Imagination* exhibit. Lucky participants may get a G-rated peep show of the seahorses' mating dance, called "pair bonding."

Dolphin Discovery Tours start with a lesson on the birds and bees as guests learn how dolphin calves Maya, Spirit and Raven, were conceived and born at the Aquarium. Then it's off to the kitchen to see the fresh food that puts dolphins in the mood. Guests will join a dolphin trainer on deck and learn about one of the most romanticized jobs in the world, then they'll meet the dolphins before enjoying reserved seating in the dolphin show.

Immersion Tours require advanced reservations. For dates, times, and prices please visit www.aqua.org. For reservations, call 410-576-3833, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. E.S.T. Younger loved ones are permitted.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore, a non-profit organization, is Maryland's leading attraction, hosting more than 1.6 million visitors per year. The Aquarium's mission is to connect people with aquatic life in order to create a better world for both. It's dedicated to education and conservation through a wide variety of programs that serve the environment and the community.

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