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NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE AND MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER OFFER TROPICAL ESCAPE

Baltimore (January 28, 2004) – Escape the cold, gray winter days and plunge into warm waters, right here in Baltimore! Between February 6 and March 31, 2004, the National Aquarium in Baltimore and Maryland Science Center are inviting visitors to explore the beauty of the tropics – at a discounted price *and* without leaving town.

Aquarium visitors will be transported from Baltimore’s Inner Harbor to a tropical paradise, while savoring the fishes and corals in the 335,000-gallon Atlantic Coral Reef exhibit. The Pacific Coral Reef and Occupying exhibits, both featuring live coral, will cast away winter blahs with flamboyant reds, stunning greens and magnificent yellows.

At the Maryland Science Center, the IMAX film *The Living Sea* plunges viewers into some of the world’s most amazing underwater sites, to swim among jellies and other sea creatures and ride huge waves without getting wet. Filmed in the far reaches of the world, from Nova Scotia to Palau, the Red Sea to the deep sea, IMAX technology shows the underwater world in amazing detail and larger-than-life size.

Guests are encouraged log onto www.aqua.org and www.mdsci.org for \$2 off admission coupons; upon arrival, visitors will receive additional discounts on food and gift purchases.

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The National Aquarium in Baltimore, a non-profit organization, is Baltimore'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 more than a dozen programs that serve the environment and the community.

The Maryland Science Center is a private, non-profit organization that serves more than half a million visitors a year. Its mission is to create awareness of the importance of science to our lives and to stimulate people, especially children, to learn science by creating exciting educational experiences.