

press release

New Habitat featuring Poison Arrow Frogs Leaps into S.E.A. Aquarium

Little but lethal species the first amphibians to be showcased as part of the aquarium's extensive collection of aquatic creatures



The beautiful but deadly poison arrow frogs are the latest residents and first amphibians to be showcased in S.E.A. Aquarium, as part of its long-term animal collection plan to exhibit new and unique species for conservation awareness on the diversity of marine life. The aquarium is home to over 40 poison arrow frogs from five species, including the dyeing (left), Amazonian (centre) as well as green and black (right) species. PHOTO CREDITS: RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

SINGAPORE, 2 MARCH 2017 – One of the planet's most colourful and dangerous animal wonders – the poison arrow frog – has leaped its way into S.E.A. Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa. These beautiful but deadly species secrete toxins through their skins that are powerful enough to kill an adult. The thumb-sized frogs are the latest residents and first amphibians to be showcased in S.E.A. Aquarium, as part of its long-term animal collection plan to exhibit new and unique species for conservation awareness on the diversity of marine life.

Poison arrow frogs are generally small, measuring 1.5 to 6 centimetres. They have vivid colours and patterns on their skins that send a clear visual warning to ward off predators. These little but lethal amphibians secrete toxins through their skin glands, posing a risk to predators consuming or even licking them. They are so-named because indigenous tribes reportedly coated arrow tips with the toxins from the back of the frogs to deliver a fatal strike to the hunted.

S.E.A. Aquarium is now home to over 40 poison arrow frogs from five species. These include the dyeing, blue, Amazonian and golden species. Frogs that exhibit the brightest colours are typically the most poisonous. The most toxic species, which can be found in the aquarium, is the golden poison arrow frog – its toxin is powerful enough to kill 10 grown men.

Poison arrow frogs feed primarily on small insects such as ants and termites, which they catch using their sticky and retractable tongues. Scientists believe that in the wild, the frogs gain their poison from their insect diet and that these insects most likely acquire the poison from the plants they eat. Poison arrow frogs under human care are not poisonous because they are usually fed a diet of non-poisonous insects. S.E.A. Aquarium aquarists provide the frogs with a variety of non-poisonous insects such as crickets and wingless flies, coated with vitamin powder for extra nutrition.

The frogs' new habitat in S.E.A. Aquarium is designed to replicate their natural habitat in the tropical rainforests of Central and South America – humid with temperatures kept at between 22 to 27 degrees Celsius. In the wild, the numbers of these frogs are declining as a result of deforestation to make way for farmlands.

Visitors to S.E.A. Aquarium can come up-close with these colourful frogs and other freshwater species like the rare platinum alligator gars at the Central and South American exhibits, located after the Coral Garden. The aquarium is home to 100,000 animals from across 800 species including fishes, amphibians and corals.

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ABOUT S.E.A. AQUARIUM

Opened in 2012, S.E.A. Aquarium at Resorts World Sentosa is one of the world's largest oceanarium home to more than 100,000 marine animals from across 800 species. Featuring 56 habitats, S.E.A. Aquarium exhibits close to 80 threatened species including the manta ray, Clarion angelfish and a variety of beautiful corals that mimic a pristine aquatic environment. Through interactive programs, up-close animal encounters and immersive learning journeys, S.E.A. Aquarium aims to inspire visitors to protect the world's oceans.

S.E.A. Aquarium collaborates with local and regional partners in marine conservation projects and is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA).

ABOUT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA

Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), Asia's premium lifestyle destination resort, is located on Singapore's resort island of Sentosa. Spanning 49 hectares, RWS is home to four world-class attractions including Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, Dolphin Island and Adventure Cove Waterpark. Other attractions include the Asian flagship of a world-renowned destination spa, a casino, six unique hotels and the Resorts World Convention Centre. With the most number of Michelin stars in one destination, RWS offers award-winning dining experiences at renowned celebrity chef restaurants, establishing itself as a key player in Singapore's vibrant and diverse dining scene. The integrated resort also offers world-class entertainment, from original resident productions to concerts and public shows such as the Crane Dance and the Lake of Dreams. RWS has been named "Best Integrated Resort" since 2011 for six consecutive years at the TTG Travel Awards which recognises the best of Asia-Pacific's travel industry.

RWS is wholly owned by Genting Singapore, a company of the Genting Group. For more information, please visit www.rwsentosa.com.

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Note to Editors

1. Photos and video can be downloaded from <https://app.box.com/v/poisonarrowfrogs>
2. Watch a video of the frogs: https://youtu.be/MzgsHI_9gUU
3. All photos and video are to be attributed to **Resorts World Sentosa**



In the wild, poison arrow frogs get their toxicity from the insects they eat. Poison arrow frogs under human care which are fed a diet of non-poisonous insects are not poisonous themselves. Nevertheless, aquarists at S.E.A. Aquarium exercise caution and put on gloves when handling the frogs. The aquarists feed the frogs a variety of non-poisonous insects such as crickets (left) and wingless flies (right), coated with vitamin powder for extra nutrition.



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S.E.A. Aquarium's latest poison arrow frog collection includes the blue poison arrow frog (left) which has bright blue black limbs, sky blue body with spots all over. Unlike most tropical frogs which are active only at night, this species is diurnal and hunts through leaf litter all day.