

LA CITÉ DE LA MER

C H E R B O U R G

PRESS FILES

NEW 2019

THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE



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LA CITÉ DE LA MER IS OPENING A NEW PERMANENT SECTION 'THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE' PAYING HOMAGE TO THE BLUE PLANET

Bernard CAUVIN, Chairman and Managing Director of La Cité de la Mer



In the spring of 2019, La Cité de la Mer in Cherbourg, Normandy, opens a new permanent section covering 1,400 square metres, where visitors will experience a unique adventure, going from the surface of the sea to the bottom of the ocean. Children and adults will

live through an extraordinary voyage, discovering eighteen different interactive areas, and seventeen aquariums. In the heart of this great new adventure they will share in the fantastic encounters made by the pioneers who conquered the ocean depths and the creatures living there: giant animals and microscopic plankton.

'La Cité de la Mer' in Normandy is famous for its indisputable achievements. Since it opened in 2002, over 3,700,000 visitors have been fascinated by man's adventures under the sea and shared in the secrets of the submariners who embarked on the first French nuclear-powered submarine, *Le Redoutable*. La Cité de la Mer is the only place in the world exhibiting the submersibles epitomising worldwide exploration of the ocean depths, and it is becoming more and more well known both in France and worldwide.

After sixteen years, I wanted *La Cité de la Mer* to go one stage further. We would enhance the exhibits on show for the public and take up the challenge of combining today's fundamentals -the human genius that has presided over man's prodigious adventures under the sea- with a way of providing a new look at the future of the Oceans, the elements that have exercised the most influence on human evolution since the beginning of time.

Visitors experience an entertaining story, suitable for all ages, based around exceptional moments when they are able to both contemplate and marvel at the beauty of the Oceans. There are interactive experiences involving complete immersion, where visitors encounter lively yet mysterious fauna from the last wild region of planet. They gain a new understanding of this gigantic yet fragile world, which humans hardly ever see, even though it provides the marvellous undreamt-of genetic resources that will contribute to the survival of the human race if we can use it intelligently.

With this ambitious project for society, *La Cité de la Mer* is determined to be considered as one of Europe's main centres devoted to the sea. We are more than ever keen to make science, and the people practising it, more accessible, and we want to inspire everybody with enthusiasm for the wealth represented for all by the Oceans.'



UNDERSTANDING AND TOUCHING THE ORIGIN OF LIFE: THE OCEANS

PLANET OCEAN

As soon as visitors enter the **'Planet Ocean section'**, with its giant decorated sphere and extensive cyclorama, they begin to look at the blue planet in a new way. Life came into being in the Ocean over three billion years ago and, since the dawn of time, the oceans have been the element with the most influence on evolution. The opening up of all the new sea routes during the Renaissance is a classic

example of this, as it completely transformed contacts between people, bringing continents out of isolation.

This trip through time tackles a new challenge: to show that Humans and Society have evolved through the conquest of the seas, and will continue to do so in the future.



ENCOUNTERS

Next, visitors proceed to the section where they discover a new presentation of the Abyssal Aquarium, the deepest in Europe, echoing the first strokes of scuba divers. Visitors go a few metres underwater, surrounded by fabulous animals, in a world where only freedivers and scuba divers are usually around to encounter **dolphins, sharks and whales...** A view of life under the surface that seems natural, but which

is the result of the work of the ingenious pioneers of film, from the ever-popular 'Captain' Cousteau to the recent exploits of Jacques Perrin.

Visitors marvel at the films shown on large three-metre-high glass screens, and become curious about discovering so much more, using the touch screens with their films, games and learning applications.



VOYAGE TO THE INFINITESIMALLY SMALL

The next thing that visitors **discover is the strange, mysterious world of the infinitesimally small: Plankton, organisms that are invisible and yet so essential to the survival of humans**, as explained by the biologist and raconteur Pierre Molo.

Visitors use giant interactive magnifying glasses to discover microorganisms with surprising shapes and colours. Plankton is the source of 50% of the oxygen on the planet, that is one out of every two human breaths taken. The backlit panel devoted to the 'Planet Plankton' expedition conducted by the schooner Tara shows the vital role played by

plankton, including through filmed interviews with crew members. A 150,000-kilometre voyage during which they collected 35,000 samples of plankton, giving rise to the discovery of numerous interesting molecules!

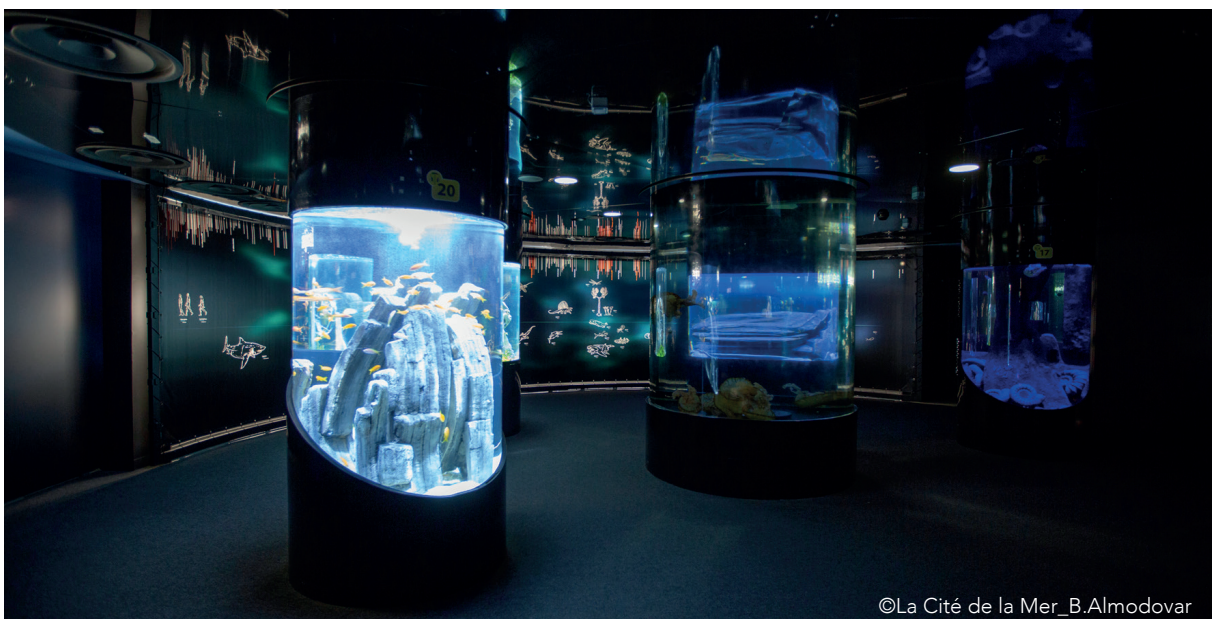
But these microscopic peoples are right here, in front of our eyes, behind the glass of the Abyssal Aquarium, where **visitors can use a touch screen to plunge into a drop of water from the 10.7-metre-deep Tahitian pool, in the midst of the thousand fish that live in it. A voyage whose only aim is to discover the origin of life.**



SPECIES FROM THE DAWN OF TIME

Visitors then see five cylindrical aquariums, surrounded by other exhibits. They contain species that have survived from the age of dinosaurs: **nautilus, sea horses, jellyfish, moray eels...** They

all have one thing in common: at over 400 million years old, they are the oldest living animals that we know and observe – striking



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DIVING DOWN TO THE DEPTHS, LUMINOUS AND INSPIRING

DOWN TO THE OCEAN DEPTHS

Before reaching the ocean depths, **visitors go through an experience that they will find nowhere else in the world and which involves their eyes and ears: a giddy 6,000-metre descent, alongside fascinating**

marine animals: whales, iguanas, octopuses, manta rays... These enormous iconic animals come shyly into the visitors' view, an extremely moving underwater spectacle.

LANDSCAPES OF THE OCEAN DEPTHS

Next comes an encounter with something to marvel at: the ocean floor with its strange, mythical species unlike no others: giant squid, Dumbo octopuses, sea devils...

In this area with its soft lighting, **the seascapes seem to rise up from the ground. Black smokers and coral come to life through video recordings and maps illustrating** the movements of terrestrial plates

and submarine rifts. Visitors are accompanied during **this trip by the accounts of the oceanauts, the pioneers who, inside their submersibles, observed these phenomena in the ocean depths:** Don Walsh, Anatoly Sagalevich, James Cameron and Henri-Germain Delauze... On touch screens and tablets, with games and hands-on devices, visitors, young and old, access this strange world, discovering the prodigious adventure experienced by these men.



THE MUSEUM SWALLOWED UP BY THE SEA

Just nearby, in another area -an alcove- visitors are immersed in the world of underwater archaeology. They have **glimpses of legendary wrecks such as the CSS Alabama, the aeroplane in which Antoine de Saint-Exupéry crashed, and the Léopoldville,** as

well as the Lighthouse of Alexandria.... But underwater archaeology is also a major challenge for the future, with ingenious projects such as **Ocean One**, the humanoid underwater robot capable of replacing humans in otherwise inaccessible places.

JULES VERNE SALOON

Visitors then go on to the **Jules Verne saloon**, a large **window opening onto the ocean and the great Abyssal Aquarium**, with its bronze-coloured semi-reflective glass walls where the elements making up the story of Nemo and the Nautilus appear one after the other: books, objects, engravings, nautical charts and portraits. The imagination of the prodigious nineteenth-century visionary has inspired people from all over the world who have ventured down into the ocean depths.



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GARDENS UNDER THE SEA

Visitors then discover food and gardens under the sea. They are invited to devise a complete meal from the sea. Around a large digital table dedicated to food obtained from the sea, each visitor takes on the role of a Chef and produces a menu composed exclusively of products from the sea, while taking into account the seasons and resource management. Their senses are stimulated in an area that also pays homage to the wealth of food to be found in the sea in Normandy and elsewhere. Visitors put their sense of smell to the test with the sea aroma diffusers and make the most of a view over a Normandy vegetable garden of the sea presented in a new 3,000-litre vertical aquarium.



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THE PROMISES OF THE OCEANS

The wealth of the oceans also signifies promises for humans. That is exactly what is shown in the 'Laboratory of the Future' aquariums and on the large dynamic interactive panels. Families use a laser system -accessible by all- to select species from the moving images of the ocean bed projected onto this

twelve-metre long screen. A chart shows visitors the solutions that the Oceans are currently providing to the problems affecting humans. Whether tiny or gigantic, all the species show what the sea brings to humankind in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, cosmetics, food, etc...



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THE OCEAN OF THE FUTURE, TO BE PROTECTED IN THE PRESENT

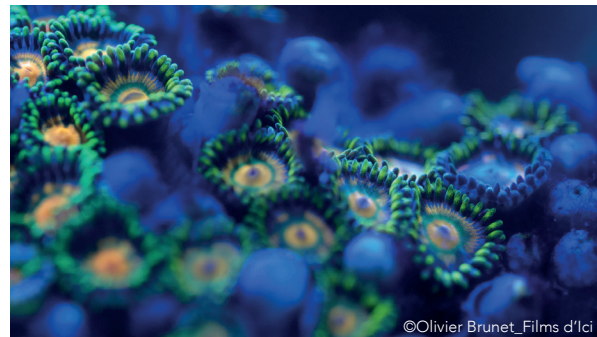
After being cradled in the magic of the ocean depths -our final Eldorado- after discovering the spectacular ballet of marine life and approaching mythical wrecks, coming into close contact with the immensity of promises of the Ocean and what is yet to be discovered, visitors enter the final area, under the eleven metres of the great rift in the Abyssal Aquarium.

For even if **the Oceans generously provide humankind with their riches, they are still under threat.** Visitors finally become aware of the harm being done by humans to the oceans, the upset and threats that are currently weighing down on the oceans. **As Jacques Perrin said: 'There's no backup Ocean, and mankind**

must understand that before it's too late.'

After this exhibit, **visitors cross the 'final frontier' with the origin of life, a final spectacle with plenty of sensations and emotion,** a veritable appeal from Oceans that will inspire visitors to want to live in harmony with them - a riot of transient floating images projected onto three screens next to a large aquarium filled with fluorescent coral.

The spectacle jogs the visitors into remembering that Oceans are the origin of life and hold all the keys to the future of humanity, as long as we 'manage them as something that belongs to everyone'



ANATOLY SAGALEVICH
IFREMER
CHRISTIAN BUCHET
ALEXANDRA OPPENHEIM-DELAUZE
FRANÇOIS SARANO
ANNNY CAZENAVE
PIERRE MOLLO
NOAA
BERNARD KLOAREG
JACQUES PERRIN
INSTITUT DES SYSTÈMES COMPLEXES DE PARIS
JAMSTEC
JACQUES ROUGERIE
MICHEL HIGNETTE
MARINE NATIONALE
DON WALSH
SYLVIA EARLE
UNIVERSITÉ MARITIME DE SHANGHAI
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CHRISTIAN SARDET
PAUL-HENRI NARGEOLET
OCEAN EXPLORATION TRUST
JAMES CAMERON
CENTRE NATIONAL CHIMIE DES ALLOYONS PROTECTOR
UNIMEDS
LAURENT MARIE

OUR EXPERTS

LA CITÉ DE LA MER IN THE HEART OF ADVENTURE

Since our centre devoted to the fantastic adventure of the ocean depths opened to visitors in Normandy in 2002, over 3.7 million visitors have marvelled at its attractions. Its original theme and its network of partners mean that it is becoming ever more well known, both in France and abroad!

La Cité de la Mer is a tourism attraction born from a double purpose: to save the Art deco Transatlantic liner terminal and to open to the public the largest submarine in the world available to visit - France's first nuclear-powered ballistic submarine, *Le Redoutable*. The various exhibits provide an original way to discover the world's oceans through an epic adventure in the ocean depths.

Launched by General de Gaulle in 1967 in the Cherbourg navy shipyard, *Le Redoutable* **was France's first nuclear-powered ballistic submarine**. This 420-foot-long giant, symbol of France's deterrent policy, patrolled the world's seas for over twenty years. Visitors go on board the submarine and discover the secret world of submariners. The audio guides, available in two versions ('expert' and 'family'), describe all aspects of the daily life shared by the 135 crew members during their seventy-day patrols, from the operational areas to the living quarters and the chart room.

Two more permanent sections have been added to *La Cité de la Mer* since it opened. Since 2008, **families have been able to experience the virtual**

attraction 'Walking into the Depths' living through the adventure and discovering the ocean depths. The 50-minute-long trip, during which visitors are divided into crews, is made up of training areas followed by virtual diving capsules. Then comes a surprise to conclude the adventure...where the visitors can see themselves walking under the sea!

In the permanent area called **'Titanic, Return to Cherbourg'**, opened in 2012, visitors relive the crossing made by the legendary liner, from the time she called in at Cherbourg until the night of the tragic shipwreck. The visit starts in the magnificent Baggage Hall, where visitors discover a host of fascinating lives: first European emigrants leaving for the Americas, and then the 281 passengers who boarded the Titanic in Cherbourg. After going along the reconstitution of the liner's hull, visitors are taken back through time to an area where they are immersed in three sequences: the crossing, the collision and the shipwreck - combining recordings of passengers, photos, reconstitutions of scenes in decors showing first, second and third class quarters, and the Captain and crew area.

The iconic craft involved in deep-sea diving, the vessels themselves or 1:1-scale models, await visitors as they arrive in **the Great Hall of Men and Machines**. All the submersibles that have gone down to explore the legendary wreck of the Titanic are there: *Nautile*, *Alvin* and *Mir*. In 2014, an actual-size eight-metre-high model of James Cameron's submersible, the *DEEPSEA CHALLENGER*, completed the exhibits in this area.



PRATICAL INFORMATION

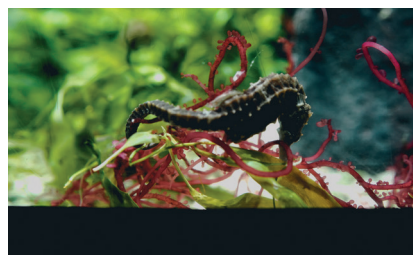
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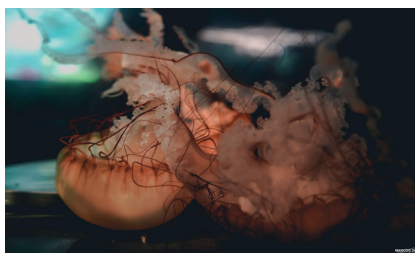
Planet Ocean ©F. Dourlen



Sea Horse ©F. Dourlen



Nautilus ©La Cité de la Mer



Jellyfish ©La Cité de la Mer



Jules Verne Saloon ©B.Almodovar

RATES AND HOURS

INDIVIDUAL RATES 2019 (provisional rates applicable from April 1st 2019) :

Children from 5 to 17 inclusive : € 14 / Adults : € 19

Under 5 years* : no admission charge**

OPENING TIMES :

Open throughout the year from 10am to 6pm

In July and August : 9:30am to 7pm

Please note that tickets sales stop an hour and a half before the centre closes.

* Free for children under 5 accompanied by an adult buying a ticket

**Please note that, for safety reasons, children under five are not allowed to visit *Le Redoutable* submarine. Free for children under 5 accompanied by an adult buying a ticket.

When there is a cruise ship in the harbour, the Emigration area is closed to the public.

To make the most of your visit, we advise you to arrive in La Cité de la Mer during the morning. Your tour around our complex will be all the most pleasurable. Your ticket is valid for the whole day. You can leave the complex, have your lunch, and come back to carry on your tour at leisure. We hope to see you soon in La Cité de la Mer.

Peak periods : When there are a lot of visitors in the complex, the "Walking into the Depths" attraction will be accessible as places become available. It is therefore advisable to arrive as soon as the centre opens, to be sure of having place.

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