

For immediate release



Free entry to Horniman Aquarium for World Oceans Day fun-day

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in south London is offering free entry to its Aquarium on Saturday 8 June as part of its family-fun-packed activities for World Oceans Day.

Every year, World Oceans Day brings communities together to honour, help protect, and conserve the world's shared ocean. For World Oceans Day 2019, the Horniman is running a fun day of free activities to help visitors discover how they can become caretakers of our oceans.

As part of their free visit to the 15 tanks of coral reefs, mesmerising jellyfish and more, visitors will be the first to see a month-long pop-up Beat Plastic Pollution display throughout the Aquarium – created by the Horniman in support of the European Commission's World aquariums #readytochange to #beatplasticpollution campaign - and be invited to make their own ocean pledge, to help preserve the health of the world's oceans.

World Oceans Day fun on offer throughout the Horniman will include:

- hands-on workshops with ocean objects, led by Aquarium staff and museum curators
- two 6-ft puppet ships which will be 'flying' around the Horniman
- 'Journey into the Deep' creative storytelling and craft workshops
- curator talks about green turtles, sharks and 'Lego Lost at Sea'
- a green turtle taxidermy specimen on loan from the Natural History Museum
- children's poetry competitions to win an ocean-themed goody bag (5-11s) or a behind-the-scenes tour of the Aquarium (12-18s)
- a hanging fishing-net installation which will 'catch' visitors' ocean pledges.

Tim Corum, Director of Curatorial and Public Engagement at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'The Horniman is doing a lot behind the scenes to take care of our oceans, from our world-leading Project Coral research to getting rid of single-use plastics from our Café. World Oceans Day is our chance to invite our visitors to join us in this commitment to preserving the health of our oceans and of course there's plenty of fun to enjoy throughout the day. Come along, join in and make your ocean pledge at the Horniman.'

The Horniman's World Oceans Day activities are free. The Aquarium is free to visit on World Oceans Day, Saturday 8 June 2019. The usual ticket prices for the Aquarium are: Child £3, Adult £5, Family (2+2) £12, including optional Gift Aid donation. Under-3s and Horniman Members go free every day.

Ends

Picture attached shows Orange fin anemonefish in the Horniman's Aquarium. Credit Horniman Museum and Gardens.

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Notes to Editors:

- **World Oceans Day** (8 June 2019) is a global day of ocean celebration and collaboration for a better future. worldoceansday.org
- The **Beat Plastic Pollution** pop-up display has been created by the Horniman Aquarium as part of a coalition of 181 aquaria around the world supporting the European Commission's **World aquariums #readytochange to #beatplasticpollution** campaign bereadytochange.eu. The joint call is coordinated by the European Commission (DG Environment) and the United Nations Environment Programme, with the support of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, the European Union of Aquarium Curators, the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums, the US Aquarium Conservation Partnership and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – horniman.ac.uk/members.
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx. 15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).