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PRESS RELEASE

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**Feel your heart  
beat for  
the Ocean.**

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aquarium | exhibitions | activities | workshops



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# Nausicaá, an aquarium on a mission

## Nausicaá, Mankind and the Ocean at the heart of life

Since its beginnings Nausicaá, the French National Sea Centre, has been a **centre with a scientific culture focusing on mediation** that raises awareness around the link binding Mankind to the Ocean.

At Nausicaá, we believe that people only protect what they love, and it is this love of the Oceans that guides all our actions.

Nausicaá is an **exceptional discovery space**, where the visitors can marvel at the beauty of the marine world, understand the environmental challenges and, above all, learn to love and protect the Oceans.

## Our *raison d'être*: to reveal the Ocean in each of us

In a society that is distancing itself from nature and where biodiversity is vanishing, we must more than ever recreate our closeness with the living world, so we can all live together better.

Through our **awareness-raising mission**, we are putting the Ocean back at the heart of the life of the blue planet's inhabitants. Because we all have a special link with it, because we love it passionately and know that it is the essential condition for all life on Earth, our *raison d'être* is to reveal the Ocean that we all have in each of us.



## **Nausicaá is an aquarium on a mission with the commitment of the greatest number to work for the preservation of the Oceans as its driving force.**

In 33 years, Nausicaá has welcomed more than 20 million visitors, including 5 million schoolchildren. With them, Nausicaá has conducted its first awareness-raising mission and has created a new generation, O for Ocean: a community committed to our planet because they have understood that an Ocean in good health is the solution if we are to take up the environmental challenges.

All of Nausicaá's commitments are guided by our passion for the Oceans and are met thanks to a team of 220 employees who deploy their initiatives in Boulogne-sur-Mer and around the world.

Aquarium on a mission, Nausicaá is committed to promoting the preservation of the Oceans focussing on three key aspects: **raising the public's awareness of the need to manage the oceans better, preserving biodiversity and innovating for our blue planet.**



Recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Education regarding the Marine Environment by UNESCO, Nausicaá promotes the transmission of knowledge of the Oceans through the deployment of its educational initiatives with the general public and schools. Exhibitions, scientific mediation, conferences and events: so many ways of raising awareness so that everyone can discover the link binding them to the Oceans.

With the opening of the Blue Academy, our new youth workshop space, Nausicaá strengthens its educational mission and offers a young audience a place for expression, creativity, experimentation and commitment to make today's young people tomorrow's ambassadors of the Oceans.

Nausicaá also invests in a programme for the sustainable consumption of the produce of the sea, Mr.Goodfish, launched in 2010. This programme is part of an approach to the sustainable management of the Oceans' resources involving all the sector's players, from the fisherman to the consumer.

This awareness-raising mission has developed beyond our frontiers with Nausicaá's participation in scientific projects on an international scale and events such as the Climate and Biodiversity COP to ensure the Oceans are taken into account in the decisions made by the institutions.



Besides its awareness-raising initiatives, Nausicaá mobilises for the living and biodiversity by taking part in European conservation programmes for the preservation of endangered species. The many births at the aquarium is the reflection of the aquariological team's expertise in the care of the animals and for ensuring their everyday wellbeing.

Outside its walls, Nausicaá takes part in multiple *in situ* animal species conservation projects in collaboration with associations working in the field. In 2018, the Nausicaá Endowment Fund was set up to contribute to the funding of these initiatives and to act as closely as possible to endangered species in their natural habitat.



Lastly, support for blue innovation is part of Nausicaá's concrete actions. By creating the Blue Living Lab in 2019, an incubator for blue economy projects, Nausicaá is placing innovation at the service of this cause and helping start-ups that innovate with and for the oceans to grow. Thanks to the Blue Living Lab, we are proud to support the hatching of tomorrow's blue nuggets and to contribute to ensuring tangible advances are made, both for better knowing these spaces which represent 70% of the planet's surface and also for finding concrete solutions for the future.

**Since its creation in 1991, Nausicaá has always believed in the decisive role played by citizens, mankind's imagination, the sharing of experience and innovation.**

**Today, more than ever, the challenge of preserving the Oceans concerns us all and only a collective mobilisation will enable us to go further: we invite everyone to share in our passion, to learn, act and inspire the future generations to take care of our precious Oceans.**

**Together, let's place the Ocean at the heart of our lives and of our future on Earth!**



# Editorials



## Frédéric Cuvillier

Mayor of Boulogne-sur-Mer,  
President of the Boulogne  
Urban Community,  
and former minister

Boulogne-sur-Mer, France's Number One fishing port, is the capital of the French Opal Coast where the sea represents our history, our culture and our future. At the heart of our maritime identity, the inhabitants of Boulogne are proud to have Nausicaá, the largest aquarium in Europe, a veritable tourist locomotive for our region.

With more than 907,000 visitors welcomed in 2023, Nausicaá surpasses all our expectations. This highlights not only our success as an increasingly popular tourist destination, but also the key role that Nausicaá plays in the development of the local economy.

Nausicaá is not just a tourist attraction, it is also a driving force committed to having a positive impact on the Boulogne Urban Community: job creation, cultural activities and events, development of partnerships.

Blue innovation is also at the heart of our collaboration with Nausicaá. With the creation of the Blue Living Lab or the recent inauguration of the Blue Academy, we support tomorrow's blue nuggets and the education of the younger generations for the preservation of the oceans.

And that's just the beginning. In 2025, we will be opening a new chapter with the launch of the works for the Great Nausicaá, the completion of a bold project that will strengthen our position as a town committed to blue innovation.

**Together, let's be proud of the work accomplished for the people of Boulogne!**



With more than 30 years' existence, Nausicaá is a go-to player in the worlds of education, research and the preservation of the oceans, acknowledged by UNESCO.

Although the public-sector shareholders still have a majority stake in the SAEM Nausicaá, a certain number of local and national private-sector companies decided to join us at the time of our capital increase in 2021. Their trust is the reflection of Nausicaá's deep roots in the region and the focus on our mission to raise the public's awareness of the need to better manage the oceans.

Innovation for sustainable blue growth is also at the heart of the values that we share. By increasing its capital to 8.6 million euros, Nausicaá demonstrates its capacity for working closely with private-sector partners and strengthens its financial footing, allowing it to continue to develop ever-more innovative awareness-raising projects.

I extend my warmest thanks to all the stakeholders who are contributing to this exceptional project.

**Together, let's continue to write this extraordinary odyssey.**

## Dominique Godefroy

President of Nausicaá



Nausicaá accomplishes its mission thanks to the everyday commitment of a team of 220 employees: passionate professionals whose ambition is to transform its millions of visitors into players committed to the Oceans. Inaugurated on 18 May 1991, Nausicaá has since raised awareness of more than 20 million visitors, including 5 million schoolchildren.

Since its creation, Nausicaá has never ceased to reinvent itself by proposing new exhibitions and events to its visitors to explain the major ocean-related environmental challenges.

In 2024, Nausicaá will cast light on the abysses by including the theme of the deep seabeds in its annual programme. "Destination Abyss" is not just a new exhibition, it's a call to action: the involvement of as many people as possible will be encouraged to contribute to the preservation of the ocean depths. An original exhibition, events and activities: so many ways to explore this fascinating world and understand the need to preserve it in the face of the current challenges.

**This year, I invite you to visit Nausicaá and feel your heart beat for the Ocean!**



## Christophe Sirugue

CEO of  
Nausicaá



**3**

immersive, fun and educational trails to discover thousands of animals and a unique marine biodiversity

# Nausicaá in figures

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

most visited tourist site north of Paris

**220**

employees

More than

**2,000**

births every year, including

**16**

species that are part of the inter-aquarium breeding programmes.

More than

**20 million**

visitors made aware of the beauty and vulnerability of the Oceans including

**5 million**

schoolchildren





**1991**

Creation of Nausicaá  
Opening to the public on 18 May



**1998**

First extension of Nausicaá doubling its  
surface area to 4,500 sq.m of  
exhibition space



**2009**

Official recognition of World  
Oceans Day – of which Nausicaá is  
a founding member –  
by the United Nations



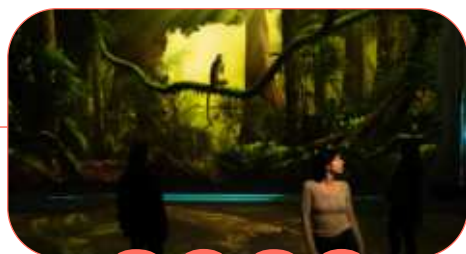
**2010**

Official launch in France of the Mr. Goodfish campaign,  
a European programme for the responsible  
consumption of the produce of the sea involving  
all of the sector's players, from fishermen to consumers,  
not to mention fishmongers and the catering trade



**2018**

Second extension of Nausicaá which  
changes dimension to become the  
largest aquarium in Europe



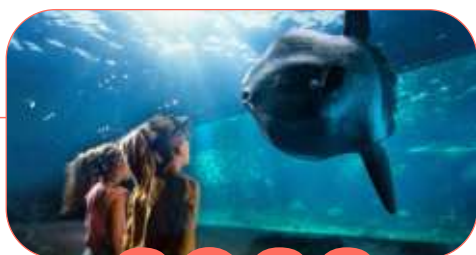
**2020**

Immersive "In the eye of the climate"  
exhibition and creation of the  
"Blue Living Lab"



**2021**

Nausicaá celebrates its 30th birthday



**2022**

Launch of the "GRAND LARGE"  
augmented reality experience



**2023**

Nausicaá welcomes its 20 millionth visitor and  
opens the Blue Academy, a new space  
dedicated to youth and learning.

# Preserve

The preservation of biodiversity is at the heart of Nausicaá's mission.

## The births and conservation programmes at Nausicaá

### Conservation at Nausicaá

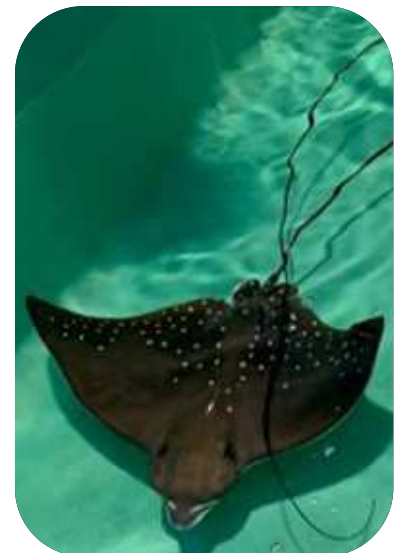
The preservation of biodiversity is at the heart of Nausicaá's missions and this mission is materialised by its participation in European conservation programmes defined by EAZA, the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums. These programmes are called EEPs – Eaza ex-situ programs.

Thanks to the awareness of their audiences, the aquariums and zoos offer visibility of these endangered species and of the initiatives that can be taken in-situ, that's to say in the field to preserve them. Furthermore, the presence of endangered species in structures such as zoos or aquariums offers long-term observation opportunities for scientists who enhance their studies in the field.

Nausicaá is involved in these programmes and coordinates two of them: one for the blackchin guitarfish (*Glaucostegus cemiculus*) present in the High Seas great tank and the other for the rainbow fish family (*Melanotaenidae*).

The coordinators collect the data that are sent to them by the programme's partner establishments: births, deaths, captures, numbers of males and females, origin, breeding provenance, rearing method and breeding techniques, everything is recorded to meet the programme's key goal: maintaining a population that is healthy from the genetic and demographic viewpoints within the partner establishments.

Nausicaá also takes part in EEP programmes for more than 15 species such as, for example, sea lions, African penguins, eagle rays, sandbar sharks, devil rays, starry smooth-hounds, thornback rays, undulate rays, and many more besides.





## Rearing to preserve the natural habitat

Nausicaá's expertise in jellyfish breeding and coral propagation has been acknowledged for many years. Rearing these species in-house avoids the need to take specimens from their natural habitat. The coral on show in Nausicaá's exhibitions comes from our reserves, as do the jellyfish that are born and reared there before being placed in the aquariums. The aquariological team is also involved in fish rearing, and collects the eggs produced by the species in the big High Seas tank every day. These fish eggs are incubated, hatched and grow in the reserves.

## The births at Nausicaá

The many births each year are a source of satisfaction for Nausicaá's team of keepers who at all times ensure the wellbeing and development of the aquarium's animals.

Although penguin, seahorse, giant guitarfish and clownfish births are regular events, Nausicaá has announced some unusual births over the last few years. After the first births of zebra sharks, leopard sharks and starry smooth-hounds in 2021, the keepers welcomed their first eagle rays in 2022 and the first undulate rays in 2023.





## Our conservation initiatives in the field

In order to act for the preservation of endangered species, the Nausicaá Endowment Fund provides financial support for associations working in the field, by calling for donations from the general public and committed businesses.



### ← Protection of Manta Rays

The manta ray is an emblematic yet very vulnerable species. It is thought that one of the largest populations of this species in the world migrates from Ecuador to the waters of northern Peru, where it is the victim of accidental fishing.

Nausicaá supports the Planeta Oceano association which works on the preservation of the species through environmental research, educational and awareness-raising initiatives with the local players.

### Protection of African Penguins →

Weakened in the face of threats linked to human activities and to predators, the populations of African penguins have seen their number of breeding pairs fall from 70,000 to fewer than 17,700 in 50 years.

Nausicaá supports the SANCCOB association for the preservation and rehabilitation of seabirds soiled with oil, injured, sick or orphaned in South Africa.





## ← Restoring coral reefs

The Maldives coral reef is being seriously impacted by the warming waters and human activities. At the end of the 1990s, nearly 90% of the corals had died. Nausicaá supports The Coral Planters and Coral Guardian associations which restore coral reefs thanks to innovative techniques and long-term scientific monitoring.

## Protecting biodiversity on the High Seas →

Malpelo Island, off the coast of Colombia, is home to a vast marine sanctuary, inhabited by an amazing diversity of species: hammerhead sharks, whale sharks, rays, groupers... Nausicaá supports the Fondation Malpelo whose mission is to protect Colombia's marine and coastal ecosystems by conducting scientific research, educational and conservation actions.



## ← Protecting seals

The presence of marine mammals on the French Opal Coast bears witness to the richness of nature and attracts tourists and nature lovers. For the specialist, these animals also illustrate the good health of the oceans, hence the importance of observing and studying them. Nausicaá supports the Coordination Mammalogique du Nord de la France (CMNF) association which works in the field to study these animals and raise the public's awareness of the need to protect our region's wild mammals.

## Protecting sea turtles

In the Mediterranean, where the biodiversity is exceptional, there are more than 1,200 protected zones, that is to say 7% of its surface area, but the lack of human and financial resources is a barrier to their effective management. Nausicaá provides financial backing for The Med Fund association to support the management of the protected marine areas in the Mediterranean and preserve sea turtles.



# The Nausicaá Endowment Fund

Highlighting the ties binding Mankind and the Sea, informing the public of the challenges affecting the Oceans, raising public awareness regarding the defence of marine ecosystems, stressing the importance of sustainable consumption and the challenges facing the High Seas, those are what Nausicaá has been committed to for more than 30 years.

Discovering Nausicaá, means living an experience inviting you to act and take part in the creation of the Blue Society, a sustainable and fair society, with everyone involved with the sea.

At the end of 2017, Nausicaá set up its Endowment Fund which is fully in line with those missions and wishes to scale up the strength of this message with each of our Planet's inhabitants, through projects that hinge around three strategic areas: Preservation of biodiversity, civic education and mobilisation, research and innovation.



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de dotation  
de nausicaá



## Its missions:

- Help people to discover and love the sea to raise the public's awareness of the importance of better managing the oceans, and inviting everyone to act.
- Offer an experience that encourages interaction and participation.
- Contribute to the creation of a more sustainable and fair society with everyone involved with the sea.

## Why commit yourself at Nausicaá's side?

- **MAKE A CIVIC COMMITMENT** by investing in relevant and ambitious projects that have a real impact on our environment.
- **JOIN OUR FORCES** by pooling our knowledge, skills and means of action.
- **BECOME A PLAYER IN THE BLUE SOCIETY** by promoting the sustainable exploitation of the Oceans' resources.
- **TAKE PART IN THE LOCAL DYNAMICS AROUND NAUSICAAÁ** by joining in its synergy with the local players and thus strengthen our local ties.
- **PROMOTE YOUR IMAGE** thanks to Nausicaá's worldwide reputation as a tourist, cultural, economic and scientific hub.
- **JOIN OUR CIRCLE OF SPONSORS** and partners, and make the most of some special moments to meet emblematic personalities





# Awareness-raising

## The Mr.Goodfish programme



by nausicaá

### With Mr.Goodfish, choose the right seasonal fish

The Mr.Goodfish programme, which was launched in March 2010 in France by Nausicaá, in Italy by the Acquario di Genova and in Spain by the Finisterrae Aquarium, raises public awareness on sustainable seafood consumption.

The programme mobilises all stakeholders in the sector, from fish and seafood wholesalers to fishmongers, including fishermen, processors, wholesalers, restaurant owners, school canteens and even consumers. In 2023, 151 restaurant owners and caterers, 123 fish and seafood wholesalers, 67 schools and 83 company restaurants, 22 fishmongers, 5 processors, 8 boats, 2 distributors and 2 producers joined the programme. By publishing each season a list of seafood products recommended by marine resource specialists, Mr.Goodfish makes the consumer a player who, by choosing species recommended by the programme, helps to preserve the dwindling stocks of seafood products. Since 2017, the Mr.Goodfish programme has also been making recommendations for products from responsible aquaculture.



THERE are recommendations for every seaboard. Four scientific selection criteria are taken into account to select the species:



The Mr.Goodfish programme has several tools at its disposal to help consumers make their choice: a website, a mobile application, a quarterly poster and a recipe book.



### News about the programme

In 2023, the chef Mauro COLAGRECO, joined the collective of chefs working in the Mr.Goodfish programme. Head of the Mirazur in Menton, a Guide Michelin three-star restaurant and declared best restaurant in the world in 2019, vice-president of Relais & Châteaux and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Mauro is a chef committed to the protection of the oceans and marine species. In 2024, Mr. Goodfish signed a convention with the Académie Nationale de Cuisine. This partnership strengthens the desire of the two organisations to work together, particularly since the launch of the Mr. Goodfish cooking contest in 2023, the next edition of which will be held in 2025.

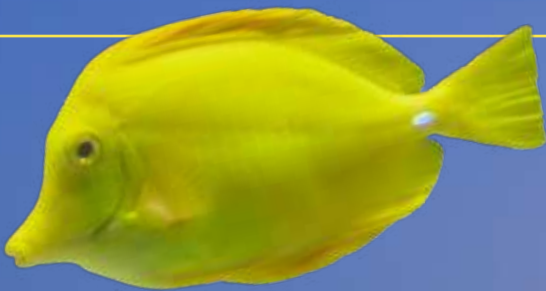


## International relations

Nausicaá is a partner in many European, collaborative, scientific and research projects.

These European projects focus on education, science and civic mobilisation around subjects such as water quality, the reproduction and survival of rays, seaweed consumption and the creation of youth forums.

Nausicaá is a mission-based aquarium and one of those missions is to get involved in projects related to the preoccupations and themes developed by the Centre, that is to say climate change, sustainable development, not to mention innovation.



## United Nations Year of the Ocean and Conference in Nice 2025

With a view to taking part in the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Nice in 2025, Nausicaá has started to create a delegation of young people committed to the Oceans. Their task will be to organise a range of events on the worldwide scale. The ultimate goal is to present a plea to the world's heads of State in Nice, urging them to make concrete commitments to protect the oceans



# Innovating for the blue planet

## The Blue Living Lab by Nausicaá

The Blue Living Lab is the open innovation and experimentation platform created and hosted by Nausicaá, dedicated to the sustainable blue economy. Located in the heart of northern Europe, it offers a co-working space housed by Nausicaá and a range of services to develop projects dedicated to blue innovation. Fishing and fish farming, tourism, transport, health, combating pollution, biotechnologies, transformation of the produce of the sea, education and communications technology, the Blue Living Lab has been working with start-ups, businesses, students and researchers since 2020 to help them develop projects that are in line with the Blue Society / Nausicaá's values / preservation of the Oceans.

The Blue Living Lab supports start-ups to help them accelerate their projects. It allows them to build partnerships, access infrastructures and expertise dedicated to the Oceans, develop their networks and share their skills with other project owners.

It facilitates a direct connection with Nausicaá's visitors by putting market surveys in place, and provides access to the aquarium's facilities to test prototypes. Furthermore, Nausicaá allows these start-ups to benefit from the Centre's unique knowledge and know-how in the area of the maritime economy and ocean-related research, on the regional, national and international scales.

**BLUE  
LIVING  
LAB**

by nausicaá





## The start-ups

It is reassuring to be in a structure such as the Blue Living Lab, and it allows them to take things further. Start-ups with several projects, we can see the potential synergies for building real collective solutions.

Weenav, Pictum and Lineup Ocean are the new projects being supported by the Blue Living Lab.



### Lineup Ocean

**LINEUP OCEAN** focuses on coastal resilience, helping coastal communities to adapt to climate change and human pressures. Their hybrid nature-based solutions protect property, restore marine ecosystems and encourage eco-responsible activities, thus pushing back the limits of coastal protection for the wellbeing of populations and marine life.



### Weenav, navigation in its purest form

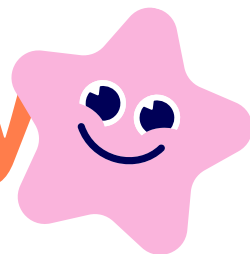
**WEENAV** is redefining the navigation of the future, transforming oil-powered boats into made-to-measure electric or hybrid masterpieces. Combining a passion for the sea and cutting-edge innovation, we are committed to a cleaner and more sustainable nautical future. Our unique collaboration with the European Space Agency has given birth to WeeSafe, guaranteeing high-performance navigation that is not only ecological but also secure.



### Pictum

VISIOON is developing a tool called **"PICTUM"** that will make it possible to identify the species in an aquarium, in real-time for the visitor thanks to AI. More than just an identification tool, VISIOON proposes fully fledged animation to make the visitor active in their visit while enjoying themselves, and highlights certain species.

# The Blue Academy



**To unleash a passion for the Oceans.**

The Blue Academy is Nausicaá's Youth Workshop space that opened its doors in October 2023. A scientific mediator welcomes young people from the ages of 3 to 18 and over, with their family, in a group or with their class, to a family workshop or an educational activity.



This 800-sq.m venue will showcase Nausicaá's educational expertise and scientific outreach. It has been designed to develop children's and pupils' curiosity about the oceans through experimentation, scientific discovery and creativity, and to foster a commitment among young people to preserving the oceans. Each age group has its activities and workshops suited to their learning pathway. The activities and workshops are suited to the children's learning pathways and take place in one of the nine innovative spaces dedicated to the different age groups (3-6, 6-8 and over 10 years of age).

## Understanding the Oceans, that's a joy

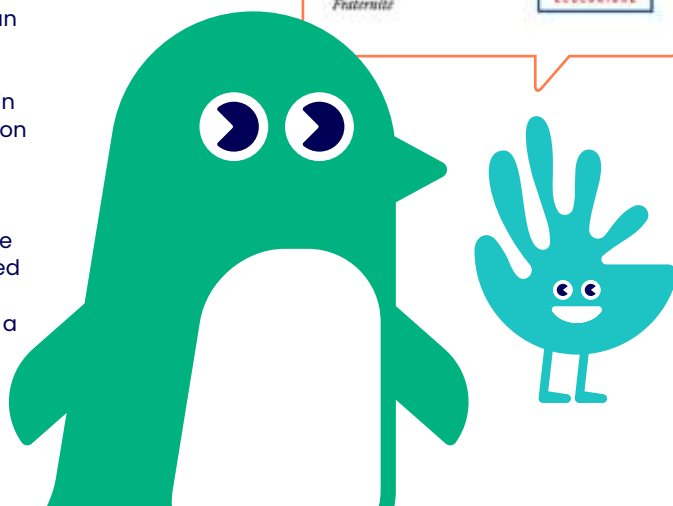
The Blue Academy has been thought out to propose an immersion in the heart of the Oceans. Through play, the awakening of the senses, the creation of objects, observation, storytelling and reading, the discovery of marine ecosystems and animals is just a game and learning is fun. The joyful collective atmosphere - whether it's with your family or in a group or your class - aims to create an enthusiasm for the Oceans and the desire to act.

## You can learn to love the Oceans!

Being aware of how important it is to preserve the Oceans has been at the heart of Nausicaá's mission since it opened in 1991. With the opening of the Blue Academy, Nausicaá offers a young audience a place for expression, creativity, experimentation and commitment to make today's young people tomorrow's ambassadors of the Oceans.

## Acting for the Oceans, that's fascinating

To encourage the younger generations to commit themselves to the preservation of the Oceans, the Blue Academy devotes one of its spaces to the Ocean Challenge ("Défi Océan"). Proposed at the end of the workshop to children aged ten and over, the Ocean Challenge encourages the participants to take part in positive actions for the Ocean thanks to a gamification system. By encouraging individual and collective commitment, Nausicaá is fulfilling its awareness-raising and mediation mission using a recreational and practical approach to turn young people into the "O'cean Generation". The Ocean Challenge is included in the partnership agreement signed in 2022 with Ademe that supports companies "that demonstrate a commitment to change".

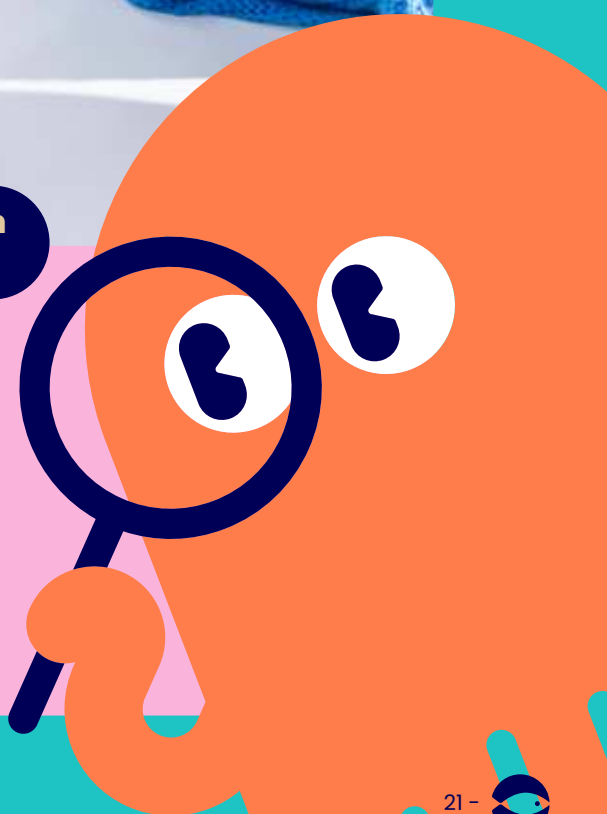






### **Nausicaá, partner of the Ministry of Education for more than 30 years.**

Right from Nausicaá's opening in 1991, the Centre's educational mission has been part of its public service mission. From there, 20 million people including 5 million schoolchildren have been made aware during their visit of the importance of preserving and conserving marine biodiversity. Furthermore, this educational mission was acknowledged by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in 1999 with the awarding of the Centre of Excellence for Marine Environment Education label. Nausicaá has also signed an outline cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Education which places the Ocean at the heart of the sustainable development and youth education challenges.

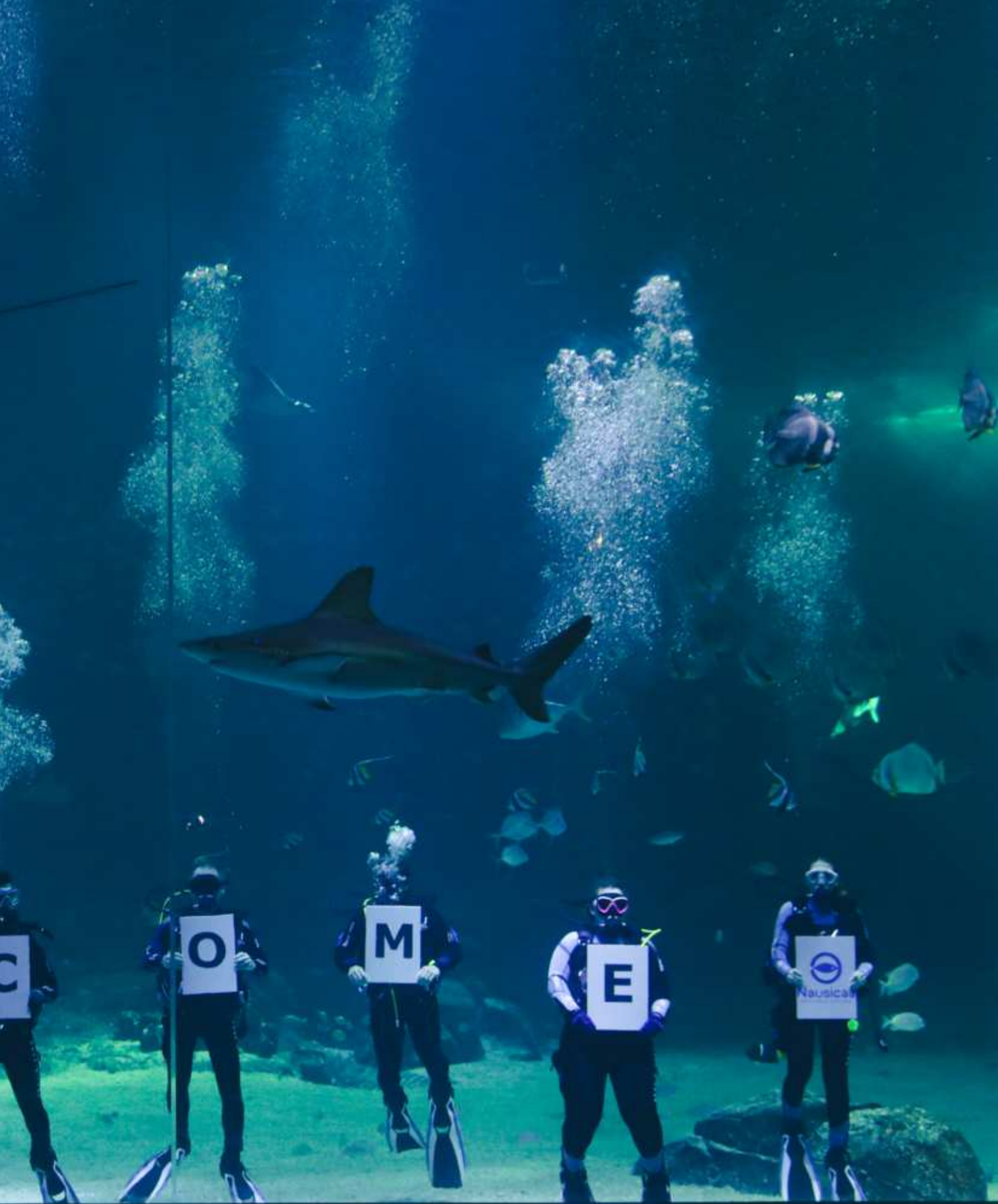


# Discover & Marvel

Coming to Nausicaá, means living a total immersion in the maritime world thanks to its interactive experiences and exceptional exhibitions. It also means sharing an intimate relationship with water, in perpetual movement. Immersion in the High Seas, embark on a grand tour of the world's seas or plunge into the eye of the climate, Welcome to Nausicaá!







# Our exhibitions:

## Mankind and Shores

**Mankind and the Sea, a relationship which goes back to the dawn of time that we are not going to see disappear any time soon! With the “Mankind and Shores” exhibition, Nausicaá invites you on a journey to discover biodiversity, distant ecosystems and the many services rendered to Mankind by the sea. Ready for a great tour of the world’s seas?**

### Island stories

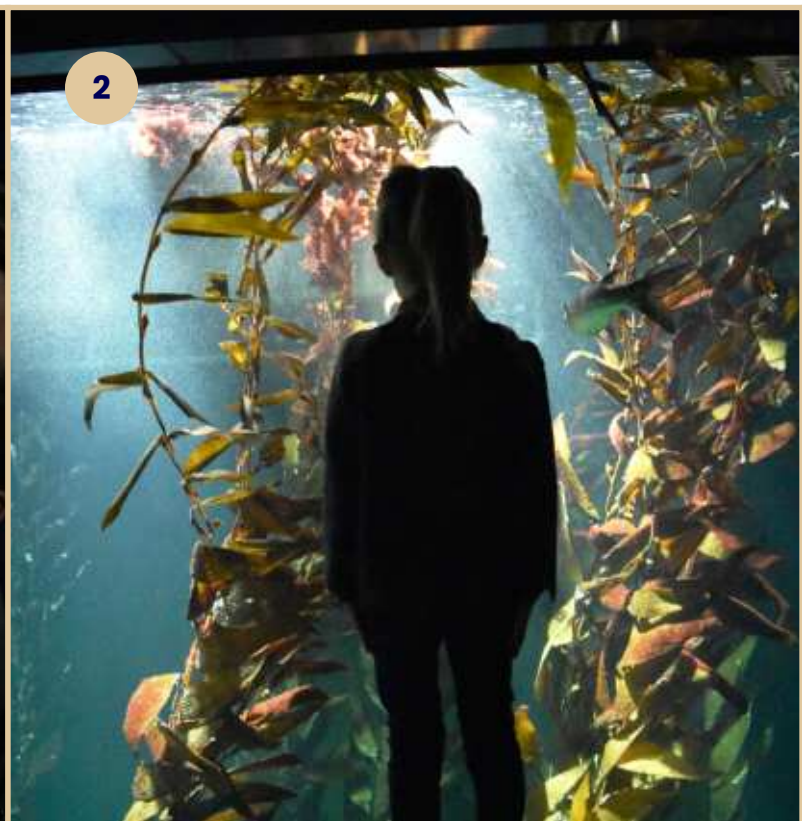
1

In this exhibition, the visitor lands on an island and sets out to discover exotic landscapes populated by amazing animals - colourful reef fauna, pig-nosed turtles, epaulette shark, zebra shark... From one island to another, thanks to the spectacular images of a scripted audiovisual tour, the islanders tell us about their history and hopes, speak about the initiatives taken to meet today's challenges.

### Californian tank

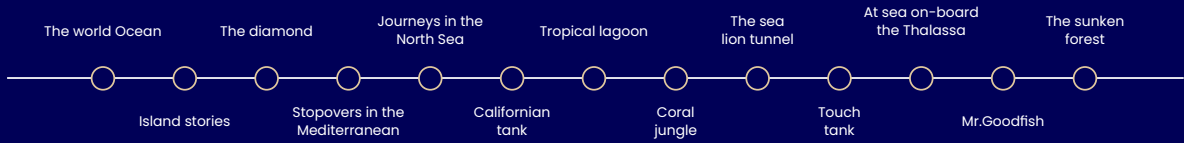
2

The Californian Tank, its kelp forest, leopard sharks, smooth-hounds and Garibaldi fish, highlight the Oceans that regulate Earth's climate, the composition of the atmosphere and the water cycle. On the surface, the water moves driven by the winds, going from the equator to the poles, or vice-versa.





**The tour route:**



**Coral jungle**

**3**

The coral jungle is presented in the form of aquariums. Guided by illustrations and videos, the visitors can learn about coral, its life, the complexity of the reef habitat in which thousands of species live and the importance of reefs for Mankind. Structures with coral cuttings are on show in the tanks and explanations of the cutting propagation and growing techniques complete the picture. About 90% of the coral species presents in Nausicaá's aquariums were grown on the spot in nurseries.

**The sea lion tunnel**

**4**

Since 1998, Nausicaá has presented California sea lions, all born in European zoological parks. The Centre has never ceased to work for the preservation of this species and has developed real scientific expertise on this subject. Nausicaá has become the benchmark on the international level regarding the medical training of sea lions, thus earning the Centre and its team of handlers a number of international awards, notably from the International Marine Animal Trainers Association (IMATA).

**The sunken forest**

**5**

The long tropical forest corridor opens up onto a space populated by caimans and fresh-water fish: the sunken forest. The journey ends in the heart of the blue planet, the living planet. The sunken forest carries you away on a dream-like journey, but it also reminds us that with each of our gestures, we can preserve the diversity of life and thus preserve our future.



## The animals:



### ← Jellyfish

Present since 1994, the first baby jellyfish were born at Nausicaá in 1995 and since then Nausicaá has developed its expertise in the reproduction and raising of jellyfish. More than ten different species of jellyfish are born and grow in Nausicaá's reserves.



### Coral →

Coral, the planet's greatest builder, is a fragile, endangered living being. At Nausicaá, the various tanks and aquariums are home to more than 70 species of coral. This unusual animal is made up of tiny individuals that together form the reefs and live in symbiosis with microscopic algae. Despite its plant-like appearance, coral is actually an animal.



### ← Sea lion

Sea lions are marine mammals and so have to come up to the surface frequently to breathe. Sea lions can live for 15 years or more. Two females, Kai et Moana, joined the group in Nausicaá in 2021.

### Spectacled caiman →

The spectacled caiman lives in still fresh waters, marshes and slow-flowing rivers in tropical forests. They are at the heart of the sunken forest! Did you know? At Nausicaá they are fed with chicken and fish, just twice a month. And for the record, caiman have adapted well to the many different changes of climate, because they still live where they already were in the days of the dinosaurs!







# Journey on the High Seas

Nausicaá's "Journey on the High Seas" exhibition is organised around a large tank recreating the High Seas ecosystem. Management of the High Seas is one of the major challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and its governance is the subject of discussions at the United Nations. Here the visitor can see the immensity of a powerful Ocean, a living Ocean. The place evokes Malpelo Island, off the coast of Colombia. This construction with its exceptional dimensions was a veritable architectural, aquariological and technical challenge, built at Nausicaá in 2018, a first in Europe!

Sharks, rays and other schools of fish occupy this space. An 18m-long transparent tunnel, multiple views, an 8m great bay, giant 20m-long and 5m-high bay windows offer spectacular views of the great tank. The visit is also dotted with astonishing interactive animations.

Situated off the coast of Colombia, Malpelo is the emerged part of a submarine cordillera that reaches depths as great as 4,000 metres. Its isolation, the absence of pollution and the convergence of several marine currents have transformed it into a living laboratory where a large number of species have found refuge!

## The kingdom of sharks

1

Sharks have always had the reputation of being bloodthirsty, man-eating hunters! But that's far from the truth: among the 540 species found in the oceans, only a few are in fact dangerous for people, in fact they are often fearful and suspicious of them! Placed at the top of the marine food chain, they play a key role in maintaining a balance in the animal populations. However, sharks are extremely vulnerable. More than 100 million sharks are killed every year, essentially for their fins...The kingdom of sharks allows us to learn more about them and how important their preservation is for the natural equilibrium of the Oceans.

## The tunnel

2

The tunnel - more than 18m long - allows the visitors to take a stroll among the sharks, manta rays, schools of fish and other animals. It offers total immersion in the high seas. A unique experience to make the most of the marvels of the Oceans.



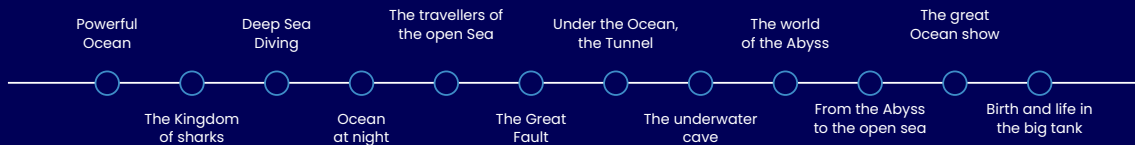


## The Great Fault

3

Nausicaá recreates an underwater fault more than 7m high offering a unique spectacle: an incursion into the secret world of the Ocean deeps, to discover the riches of this unknown world. The Great Fault is one of the impressive views giving onto the big tank. It allows the public to watch the fish swimming through a depth of 7m and discover each one's place in the ecosystem. This opening represents a column of water that will enchant children and adults alike.

### The tour route:



## A breathtaking great bay

4

At the time of the visit to the "Voyage on the High Seas" exhibition, the discovery of the "Great Ocean Show" offers an original panorama, an incredible view of the seascape of the High Seas. An impression of plunging into the heart of the oceans. This moment is unique because Nausicaá is the only aquarium in Europe that presents the High Seas to the public, a space that arouses keen interest and is the foundation on global equilibrium.

This High Seas tank is the result of an amazing technical achievement, the focal point of an exceptional undertaking. This great bay window offers a view **20m long** and **5m high giving a surface area of 100 sq.m**. The **38cm thick glass weighs 54 tonnes**.

This tank has a volume of 10,000 cu.m and takes six weeks to fill. **60m long, 35m wide and 8m deep**, the great High Seas tank is the biggest tank in Europe.

Through this immense bay the visitors are completely immersed in the depths of the High Seas, as close as they can get to the rays, shoals of fish and sharks.

4





## Great ocean deeps: in 2024, Nausicaá launched a year of mobilisation for the protection of the great ocean deeps in partnership with Ifremer.

Nausicaá, in partnership with Ifremer, has dedicated the year 2024 to the protection of the great ocean deeps with the inauguration of a new exhibition event, conferences, activities and mobilisation initiatives.

If Nausicaá has chosen to throw light on the great ocean deeps it's because they have already been impacted by pollution, they are today endangered by the exploitation of their mineral resources.

Seabed mining is appearing as a new commercial activity. Its goal: to exploit the mineral deposits present on the seabed in order to extract precious resources for industry, such as manganese, copper, cobalt, zinc and rare-earth metals.

The risk is immense of irreversibly disrupting this fragile environment that is essential for regulating the global climate.

Because the future of the abyss depends on the outcome of ongoing international negotiations and on the mobilisation of civil society to exert pressure on the public decision-makers, Nausicaá wants to alert public opinion to the challenges and risks of the exploitation of the deep seabeds.

### New "Destination Abyss" exhibition

On 7 June 2024, in partnership with Ifremer, Nausicaá opened "Destination Abyss", its new permanent exhibition dedicated to the discovery of this fascinating world, poorly known yet essential for humanity.

This consists of 180 sq.m of exhibition space, 3 aquariums and 6 new deep-sea species that the visitors will be able to discover in this new space. Right from the beginning of the exhibition, the visitors are immersed in a world apart, an unknown world, mysterious and extreme.



## The animals:



### ← Manta ray

An emblematic animal of the High Seas, the biggest ray in the world, the manta ray can reach a length of 8m and weigh as much as 1.8 tonnes. It lives in reefs, close to the surface, between a depth of 0 and 1,000m. The great manta rays get together at the highest points, where the currents carry the plankton they feed on. They complete their food with small fish and crustaceans.

### Blotched fantail ray →

In October 2020, two giant black-blotched fantail rays joined the "Journey on the High Seas" exhibition. Bravo, the biggest ray, has a span of 1.5m for a length of 2.6m, and weighs 120kg. Delta has a span of 1.20m for a length of 2m, and weighs 60kg. This ray has a round body and a poisonous sting at the end of its tail.



### ← Giant grouper

The giant grouper is a marine species that lives mainly in coral reefs, lagoons and caves. Giant groupers are hermaphroditic, that is to say they can change sex according to their breeding needs. This flexibility makes it possible to maintain a balance in the population.



# In the eye of the climate

## An immersive & sensory experience

Melting ice caps, rising sea levels, hurricanes, fires... the climate is a major preoccupation for Nausicaá, because the Oceans are at the heart of the gigantic global climate machine. With its exhibition "In the eye of the climate", the French National Sea Centre proposes a tour to its visitors taking them through the heart of the climatic events that we are experiencing on a daily basis. Highlight of this exhibition: a spectacular sensory immersion unique in the world to discover and experience the consequences of global warming. More than ever, Nausicaá calls out to its visitors regarding their power to act: the future of the Oceans and of our planet is in our hands!

The visitors will be amazed by this exhibition as soon as they come into Nausicaá's entrance lobby with the sight of a house on the point of falling off a cliff, the striking consequence of coastal erosion. The climatic upheavals are very real and are experienced on a daily basis, whether from their home with the living room of a house on the coast, or in a polar landscape in Greenland or in the forests of South America. The tour continues with the discovery of endangered species: penguins, jellyfish, coral, ... they are all suffering from the effects of global warming. At the end of the exhibition, the visitor will discover that solutions exist for preserving the environment and living more ecologically: they become players and in turn have the power to act!



## The animals:

### ← African penguins

Nausicaá has been showing penguins to the public since 2006. In more than 18 years, more than twenty-five chicks have been hatched in the framework of the European penguin breeding programme. Excellent news for this endangered species. Once they are autonomous, the young penguins join the colonies in the other centres to broaden the conservation programme and thus preserve the genetic diversity of the different colonies.





# The Nausicaá experiences

Nausicaá also means living unique immersive experiences

## The “Sharks of Nausicaá” guided tour



Through a 90-minute guided tour, kids and grown-ups alike will dive into the fascinating world of sharks. During this guided tour and taking the two itineraries - “Journey on the High Seas” and “Mankind and Shores” - they will be able to discover amazing stories and well-kept secrets about the Sharks of Nausicaá.

Are sharks really dangerous? Are there sharks in France? How many teeth do they have? This special shark immersion will answer all these questions and much more besides. With 500 species of sharks inhabiting the world’s seas, each species has a story to share. An educational experience. Beyond the legends, this shark-themed guided tour will reveal the fascinating reality of these majestic animals, considered to be the supreme predators of the oceans. A unique opportunity to learn that, despite their status as predators, sharks are vulnerable, the greatest threat hanging over them being caused by human activity.

**Adult (aged 12 and over): €12.90**

**Child (aged 8 to 12): €9.90**

**Adult season ticket (aged 12 and over): €9.90**

**Children’s season ticket (aged 8- 12): €8.00**



## The behind-the-scenes tour of the largest aquarium in Europe!



For one hour, Nausicaá opens its doors to allow its visitors to take a behind-the-scenes look at the aquarium. Accompanied by a scientific mediator, in a group of 20 people maximum, the most inquisitive visitors will be able to discover the places where Nausicaá's handlers work. From the handlers' beach to the fish kitchen - worthy of a great restaurant - to the aquariological reserves of the High Seas' tank.

A visit to discover the technical aspects and technological feats of the largest tank in Europe, with its impressive volume: 10,000 cu.m. An opportunity to learn more about the functioning of this unique aquatic environment and its many surprises.

**Adult (aged 12 and over): €12.90**

**Child (aged 8 to 12): €9.90**

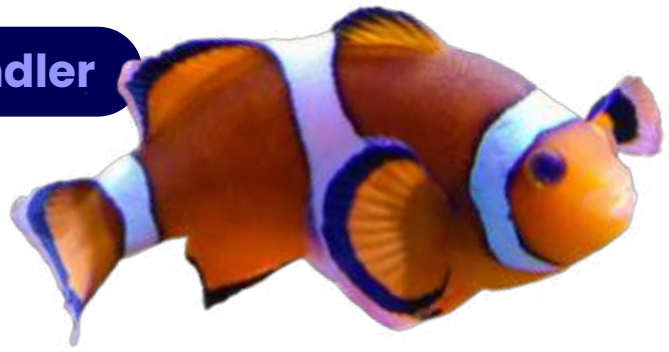
**Adult season ticket (aged 12 and over): €9.90**

**Children's season ticket (aged 8- 12): €8.00**

20 people maximum - Activity starting from 8 years of age.



## In the footsteps of a handler



### An immersion to experience the everyday life of our handlers, close to Nausicaá's animals!

For a half-day, with your family or friends, Nausicaá invites its visitors to experience a behind-the-scenes immersion in the largest aquarium in Europe. In small groups of four people, and accompanied by a scientific mediator, the apprentice handlers will set out to meet our enthusiastic handlers dedicated to the wellbeing of Nausicaá's most emblematic animals: sea lions, reptiles, manta ray, sharks, etc. At the end of this adventure, they'll take away amazing memories along with an apprentice-handler diploma.



### More than just an activity, this immersion offers the opportunity to learn about safeguarding the oceans and their species.

This experience allows the participants to learn more about the handler's work and to follow in the footsteps of those who, every day, work for the wellbeing of the 1,600 different species at Nausicaá. Prepare the animals' meals, watch the feeding of the great manta ray, take part in a coral propagation cutting workshop, feed reptiles, watch the medical training of the sea lions, or discover the aquariological reserves where you can see the newborn animals, the "In the footsteps of a handler" adventure allows the general public to live special moments on the other side of our aquariums' glass. A gourmet pause is also scheduled in our Le Calypso restaurant around a beverage and a delicious pancake, this break in your morning will allow you to live a moment of sharing with the handler and the mediator who will let you in on their amusing anecdotes for each species!







### On the programme:

The "In the footsteps of a handler" activity is proposed every Wednesday and Saturday. On Wednesdays, from 9am to noon, the visitors will have the opportunity to take part in the feeding of the giant manta ray, before going on to the feeding of the zebra sharks in the reserves, as well as an activity devoted to jellyfish or coral propagation. On Saturdays from 8.30 to 11.30am, the activities will include a moment dedicated to the sea lions where the handlers will show their medical training, followed by a feeding session in the High Seas tank, and an activity focussing on the reptiles and amphibians or feeding the fish in the touch-tank.

Rates for this experience: €150 for adults (aged 16 and over) and €120 for young people (aged 12 and over to 15 inclusive). Participants aged under 16 must always be accompanied by an adult. This rate includes access to all our tour routes: "Journey on the High Seas", "In the eye of the climate" and "Mankind and Shores". To top it all, the "In the footsteps of a handler" experience also allows you to live the Grand Large experience, a virtual reality immersion offering an unforgettable experience in the heart of the largest aquarium in Europe.



## A street-art tour

Wander down the streets and alleyways as the fancy takes you, but keep your eyes peeled. Walls and gables, street furniture and even columns at the Université du Littoral show a new face and constitute an open-air gallery accessible to everyone. Since July 2023, Nausicaá has been part of the street-art tour with a work signed by the Chilean artist, Maturana.





# On the French Opal Coast



## **Boulogne-sur-Mer, a must-see town on the French Opal Coast**

France's Number One fishing port, the leading European platform for the transformation of the produce of the sea, also a city of Art and History and home to the biggest aquarium in Europe, Boulogne-sur-Mer offers its visitors multiple points of interest.

The fortified town is a tremendous testimony to 2,000 years of history with its extremely rich heritage: the 13th century ramparts, the belfry, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Notre-Dame Basilica, which has the largest crypt in France ... But the "Old Town" isn't just an open-air museum, it's also a maze of paved streets where it's great to go for a stroll.







## **Lastingly showcasing Hauts-de-France region**

The second most visited tourist site north of Paris, Nausicaá contributes to establishing the national and international reputation of the Boulogne area, and more broadly that of Hauts-de-France region. Committed to a more responsible type of tourism, the French National Sea Centre works in close collaboration with the Boulogne Urban Community and the Boulogne Tourist Office to offer a magical moment for our visitors.





### **The Deux Caps, a remarkable protected natural site**

The French Opal Coast counts 120km of dunes, beaches and cliffs bordering the Channel and the North Sea. The two most significant places along this coastline are Cap Blanc-Nez, a 132-metre high cliff between Calais and Boulogne-sur-Mer, and Cap Gris-Nez a bit further south: although this cliff is only 50m high it is nonetheless a strategic spot, because this is the closest point to England. These two sites have been listed in the network of Great Sites in France since 2011. A hike along the Deux Caps site is magnificent, whether at high or low tide. And with a bit of luck, you'll even be able to catch a glimpse of some seals from the clifftops.



# A committed team of more than 30 years standing

Nausicaá is a human adventure with a crew of 220 people who commit themselves every day. From caring for the animals to adjusting the spotlights, from organising school activities to welcoming the public, a multitude of talents are brought together to help almost 900,000 visitors a year discover and fall in love with the sea.







*Caring*



*Informing*



*Welcoming*





# Nausicaá, a committed enterprise

Nausicaá pursues a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) policy. Whether by reducing its energy consumption, waste production or supplies, Nausicaá wants to reduce its ecological footprint and in so doing, is preparing the aquarium of the future.



Since 2023,  
Nausicaá  
has been a member of  
**Accueil Vélo**,  
a national brand that  
provides services for  
cyclists at tourist sites.



In 2023,  
Nausicaá introduced a  
**Quality of Life and  
Working Conditions  
initiative.**

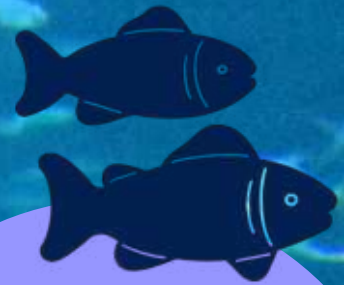


# Calypso

The Calypso restaurant pursues a **responsible policy** by offering **locally-sourced produce** from **local suppliers** and by eliminating plastic with reusable tableware.



Since 2019, the Delanchy group has been supplying Nausicaá with some of the produce it takes out of the distribution circuit so that it can be used **to feed the animals.**



The Nausicaá shop offers products made from **sustainable raw materials** and favours **local**, **Made In France, craft and circular economy products.**



# Practical information and prices

## 1-Day ticket - All exhibitions

**Adults** from **€28.50**  
aged over 12 (July - August: €30)

**Children** from **€21.50**  
aged 3 to 12 (July - August: €23)

## Special rates

Seniors (over 60), students, job seekers, large-family card (SNCF card only) and people with a disability.

**Adults** from **€25**  
aged over 12

**Children** from **€18**  
aged 3 to 12

## Annual season pass

Enjoy unlimited access to Nausicaá for 1 year, and many other advantages.

**Adult season pass** €65  
aged over 12

**Child season pass** €50  
aged 3 to 12

## Also available for families

2 adults and 2 children



**Nausicaá,**  
**Centre de la Mer**  
**Boulevard Sainte-Beuve,**  
**62200 Boulogne-sur-Mer**

**www.nausicaa.fr**  
**Telephone: +33 (0)3 21 30 99 99**  
**E-mail: info@nausicaa.fr**

## Opening times:

Open from 9.30am to 6.30pm every day\*  
Nausicaá is closed for 3 weeks in January  
for its annual works programme







# Press contacts

For any requests for information, interviews or film shoots, please contact the Communication/ Press service:

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