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The Oceanographic Aquarium Complex of Valencia City by [Jason Thompson](#)

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The colossal modern museum called The City of Arts and Sciences is located right in the center of Valencia. Designed by architect Felix Candela, you can tell is inspired by the work of Antoni Gaudi.

The Oceanographic

The Oceanographic contains a planetarium, an opera house, a beautiful botanical garden, a Museum of Science, and the largest European Marine Aquarium.

The Oceanographic Park is almost like an underground aquarium city, in which you can visit different habitats, including Tropical, Arctic and Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean Zone

With more than 7,400 fish, this is the biggest aquarium in the whole of Europe. The beautifully decorated aquariums mimic the natural habitat of the Mediterranean sea-creatures like sea cucumbers, eels, etc. It is possible to see these animals from very close.

The Ark of the Sea

The Ark of the Sea is an educational research center that helps facilitate the reproduction of some of the species facing the danger of extinction. It is endowed with innovative technologies to take care of dolphins and sea turtles. We can visit the building that represents the Arctic, which is designed to appear just like an iced igloo. Biologists can monitor whales and walrus in this specially simulated habitat. There are a few penguins in the Ocean building that can be seen lazing around, playing, or diving into the pool from the ice-like rocks.

Gaudi was so absorbed in his work that he even lived in the Sagrada Familia, and was so poor that he roamed the streets almost in rags. In 1926 Gaudi was accidentally run over by a tram and the driver thought he had killed a bum. It took a long time for the authorities to discover his identity.

The Dolphinarium of Valencia

This appears to be the largest of its kind in Europe, containing more than 23 million liters of sea water. Its theater has a capacity to seat over 2000 visitors and offers educational and entertaining shows. Many trained "Flippers" delight the spectators with their antics and skilled jumps. The dolphins used for exhibition are the bottle nosed ones, which seem to be the most common, and can grow up to four meters long.

The Hemispheric of Valencia

Right besides the Oceanographic, the Hemispheric is a gigantic theater shaped like an eye that houses a Planetarium, a Laserium and an IMAX movie house with a 900 sq m screen. The intricate technology of laser and the outstanding audio visual effects make this visit an amazing experience. You can enjoy 3D virtual trips on the IMAX or see the dome turned into a universe full of stars.

The Wetlands

Right next to the oceanographic we can visit the Wetlands, a gigantic globe made of mesh with

mangrove marshland inside.

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