NOTICE:
To best accommodate you and your family, we strongly recommend you purchase your tickets in advance online at:
WONDERSOFWILDLIFE.ORG

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SPRINGFIELD, MO – The ability to enjoy outdoor recreation has always been, and must always be, accessible to every American. Today there is a new national destination that honors the adventurers, explorers, outdoorsmen and conservationists who helped discover, develop and preserve the nation we love. Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, the largest, most immersive fish and wildlife attraction in the world is located in the heart of America in Springfield, Missouri USA.

Unprecedented in scale and scope, Wonders of Wildlife is the most important natural history museum to open in America in more than a century. With 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds, the 350,000 square-foot complex is a wonder in and of itself. It contains more than 1.5 miles of trails through authentic, immersive habitats and features 1.5 million gallons of freshwater and saltwater aquariums using innovative designs and over-the-top creativity that transports guests to the heart of the ocean.

Beyond its sheer scale and quality, what’s most impressive about the museum and aquarium is its powerful message to inspire everyone to connect with the outdoors. As the world advances and more people live and work in major metropolitan areas, it is more important than ever to preserve and promote outdoor experiences. In a stress-filled world of traffic jams, endless emails, calls and constant pressure, the best medicine is a peaceful, rejuvenating experience in nature.

The visionary behind the project is noted conservationist and Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris, sometimes referred to as “the Walt Disney of the Outdoors” for his knack for creating amazing experiences that connect people with nature. Wonders of Wildlife is Johnny’s way of repaying the blessings he has received from a life lived enjoying the outdoors. A walk through the museum is an inspirational journey into the natural habitats of the world’s most amazing species.

Johnny’s goal has always been to make it possible for people to experience the wonders of the outdoors. The museum and aquarium pay homage to the sportsmen and women of yesterday, today and tomorrow with the knowledge that the surest way to preserve our rich outdoor heritage is to expose more people to its awe-inspiring beauty.

Wonders of Wildlife was inspired by Johnny’s many adventures in nature and his numerous visits to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Both iconic institutions have helped educate and inspire millions to love and enjoy nature. Johnny’s vision – nine years in the making – establishes a not-for-profit conservation-based attraction in the heart of America in partnership with more than 40 leading conservation organizations.

Wonders of Wildlife is a celebration of the rich history of hunting and fishing in America. And, perhaps most importantly, it’s a place to introduce the conservation values we hold dearest to the generations that are to be the future stewards of our beloved lands and water. Come discover all that awaits inside and bring your family so they too can share the wonder.

“THERE CAN BE NO GREATER ISSUE THAN THAT OF CONSERVATION IN THIS COUNTRY.”
– PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT
Plunge to the depths of the ocean floor and explore a sunken shipwreck now home to colorful reef creatures including eels, goliath groupers, lobster and more. The immersive space recreates the story of a real decommissioned ship intentionally sunk by Johnny Morris off the coast of Florida, 21 years ago, to jumpstart reef growth and provide critical habitat for saltwater marine life, illustrating the positive role active management can play in ensuring thriving populations of native wildlife.

More fun surprises await around every corner as visitors traverse cypress swamps, tropical rainforests, Ozarks waterways, craggy caves and more. The aquarium's unique design ensures visitors are constantly surprised and amazed by where they might end up next, and the creatures that await to be discovered around the bend.

Anglers with a passion for nature and fishing are featured throughout with exhibits like the National Bass Fishing Hall of Fame and the International Game Fish Association's Fishing Hall of Fame. Honoring these men and women helps underscore the importance of connecting with nature as well as the need for everyone to take responsibility to protect the outdoors and pass it on for future generations to enjoy.
At the heart of the Wonders of Wildlife experience is a world-class aquarium adventure, home to massive aquatic habitats teeming with life. There has never been an aquarium as immersive, interactive, or engaging as this. Guests of all ages can immerse themselves inside a river full of piranhas, discover what it’s like to touch a stingray, traverse an underwater tunnel surrounded by giant river monsters and come face-to-face with sharks, jellies, snakes, guamas, eagles, owls and more. Throughout the journey, visitors will encounter more than 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds, representing more than 800 different species.

The experience begins with the breathtaking Great Oceans Hall, bringing the excitement of the ocean to the middle of America. After admiring historic boats fished in by Ernest Hemingway and Zane Grey, visitors step inside a 300,000-gallon circular “open ocean” habitat, teeming with life, including zebra sharks, leopards rays and sea turtles; look in awe at a mesmerizing living bait ball; and discover the Great Barrier Reef, a towering saltwater aquarium, teeming with colorful reef fish, including Maori wrasse, potato cod and more.
IMMERSIVE WILDLIFE GALLERIES TRANSPORT VISITORS AROUND THE WORLD.

Pack for adventure, come travel around the world with a visit to the WOW wildlife galleries. State-of-the-art 4D dioramas completely surround visitors within the sights, sounds and smells of the planet’s most extreme wildlife habitats. Each environment features meticulous attention to detail including massive hand-painted murals, native foliage and special effects that deliver the chill of the Arctic, the cold winds of the Alps, the dry sun of the African Savanna and more.

The wildlife galleries were inspired by Johnny Morris’ lifetime spent in nature and his deep admiration for fellow hunter and angler conservationists like Roosevelt and Audubon. These conservation heroes, through time spent hunting and fishing, grew to appreciate the vital importance of wildlife habitats and management. The creation of the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium, located in the heart of America, Springfield, Missouri, establishes a destination accessible to tens of millions of people who may never have the opportunity to travel to the great museums in New York or Washington DC.

One of the most dramatic and expansive exhibits is Great African Hall, immersing guests in the African savanna, with elephants, giraffes, rhinos, crocodiles, zebras and other species, capturing the continent’s daily drama and raw beauty as a tribute to the importance of African wildlife conservation. Guests can get closer to record-setting game animals than ever before, stand in awe observing nature’s most striking exotic animal habitats, and discover the origins of the conservation movement with historic artifacts and milestones that celebrate conservation efforts. Visitors will experience the story of conservation from the Native Americans to Lewis and Clark to Teddy Roosevelt and the wildlife management practices championed by hunters and anglers that helped shape the conservation movement.
THE MAJESTY OF THE OUTDOORS CAPTURED BY THE WORLD’S FINEST ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN.

Wonders of Wildlife is instantly recognizable for the signature imagination, creativity, quality craftsmanship, authenticity and attention to detail that goes into all the projects dreamed up by Johnny Morris, but on a much larger scale. As the largest immersive attraction of its kind in the world, the project’s massive size called for an expansive team who spent nine years creating the elaborate details that make the experience so rewarding for visitors.

More than 2,000 painters, sculptors, woodworkers, iron workers, taxidermists, illustrators, designers, scientists, biologists, engineers and others contributed to the facility, which is home to some of the most sophisticated life support systems in the country as well as some of the largest and most elaborate nature-based artwork ever created.

Every wall within the 350,000-square-foot attraction features hand-painted murals painstakingly created by a team of painters who embody the talent and quality of true Ozarks craftsmanship. Painters spent more than a year painting the Great African Hall alone, resulting in a photorealistic recreation of the great African savannah.

After the mural work was completed, imagery specialists consulted with experts to stage 3D landscape elements, including rockwork, native foliage, and water effects to match the season and habitat being depicted. Each experience is grounded in the elements of the natural world, ensuring every detail is as lifelike as possible. Wildlife mounts are placed with the help of biologists and other wildlife experts to ensure that the positioning and movement reflects an animal’s natural behavior. In the Arctic gallery, a pack of musk ox herd together to fight off a pack of wolves, while fiber-optic lights applied to the starry night sky give visitors the dazzling effect of standing beneath the Northern Lights.