## **NEWS RELEASE**

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January 3, 2024



New Changing Exhibit, Rainforest Adventure, Swings to the Virginia Aquarium Step into a playable maze with Rainforest Adventure, opening January 21

Virginia Beach, VA – Explore some of the least known habitats on Earth at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's new interactive Changing Exhibit, *Rainforest Adventure*, opening Sunday, January 21. Created by Minotaur Mazes, Rainforest Adventure boasts a maze design inviting guests to navigate through the four layers of the rainforest and discover the sights and sounds of a tropical rainforest.

Answer questions about the rainforest to journey from the highest treetops surrounded by migratory birds and radiant sunlight to the forest floor. Incorrect answers lead to dead ends, while correct answers lead deeper into the four layers of the rainforest: emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor. In this interactive space, guests can swing like a spider monkey, glide like a butterfly, leap like a frog, and climb the web of a rainforest spider while learning about this crucial environment and the species that live there.

Young guests can play like a rainforest animal with a zipline, climbing ropes, and other jungle gym elements while venturing through the maze. This exhibit also engages guests on ways to help the rainforest at home and empowers them to make a difference after learning about how essential rainforests are to human health and survival.

Rainforest Adventure will be located in the North Building's Changing Exhibit Gallery. The exhibit is included in Aquarium admission and will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., beginning January 21 through April 28, 2024. Purchase tickets on the <u>Virginia Aquarium's website</u> to join the adventure.

## Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center

The <u>Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's</u> mission is to connect people to the marine environment, inspiring a more sustainable future. The Aquarium aspires to be a driver in conservation, education, tourism, and sustainability, leading the charge to save wildlife and their ecosystems. Owned by the City of Virginia Beach, the Aquarium operates as a city department in partnership with the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation. The Aquarium is proud to be an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquarium, and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, supports the work of the Virginia Aquarium. The Foundation procures and maintains the Aquarium's exhibits, including the animals and habitats. It is also responsible for annual and capital fundraising, administration and funding for the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Program, conservation and scientific research efforts, and the Aquarium's mission-related education programs. You can be a part of our mission by making a <u>tax-deductible donation</u> to support our programming.

## Minotaur Mazes

Minotaur Mazes is a Seattle-based, worldwide traveling exhibitions company specializing in complete, interactive exhibition experiences within a maze setting. Mazes are engaging both mentally and physically, and a tactile experience helps visitors young and old retain ideas long after they have left the exhibit. Minotaur is committed to crafting quality, creative exhibitions that introduce ideas of sustainability and personal responsibility for the world and its people.