



Wilhelma for Aquarium Fans

Station Nr. 1: The North Sea/Atlantic Ocean

Five display tanks, each holding 2,000 litres of water, show that there certainly can be attractive life in both North Sea and Atlantic: an enormous lobster, catfish, turbot, gurnards, plaice, eelpouts, lesser spotted dogfish, cod, mussels, water lilies and many other organisms inhabit the aquariums, which are kept at a constant temperature of 14°C. You can watch here how a shark hatches out of an egg, and children can see that fish fingers once had fins.

Station Nr. 2: Native inland fresh water

From the clear Black Forest brook to a carp pond, various water regions are on show, together with the fish fauna that belongs there. It is above all smaller species of fish such as schneiders, bullheads, stroemers, minnows and others that have been on the Red List of endangered species for years – the destruction of their natural habitats deals the deathblow to these important links in the food chain. In this department you can also see very primordial fish in the shape of North American gars and East European sturgeon.

Station Nr. 3: The Mediterranean

This is the favourite holiday sea for the Germans – and for lots of others, too. The inhabitants of the Mediterranean itself are, however, usually only familiar to us fresh from the barbeque. In 13 large tanks we show you that the Mediterranean has more to offer than simply water, oil and seaweed. From the little blenny to the huge sea bass, from crayfish to octopus, from jellyfish via sea anemone and corals --- a few square metres put the Mediterranean's treasures on display for the visitors. This

is an ideal place, not only for study and enjoyment, you can also prepare for the coming holidays here!

Station Nr. 4: The Terrarium

After the circular tank with the inhabitants of the temperate East Pacific (leopard sharks, white sea perch, Garibaldi damselfish, horned shark), the visitors reach the Terrarium. It links the temperate sections of the Aquarium with the tropical sections. Maybe the fish friend is not at all interested in the different frogs, lizards, turtles and snakes, be they as bizarre, poisonous or rare as can be, but perhaps he/she might just take a glance at the saltwater crocodiles and the snake-necked turtles at least, for they are also fish fans – as regards their feeding habits!

Station Nr. 5: Tropical freshwater

Many of the species to be seen here will already be well known to visitors with an aquarium at home. Some of the colourful little water-dwellers have been in the standard assortment at aquarium shops for decades. But you can also find huge and peculiar creatures from the many tropical freshwater systems here. Whether it be the big shark catfish and the giant gouramis from Asia, the electric eel, piranhas and discus fish from South America, tapir fish, lobe-finned fish and cichlids from Africa, lungfish from Australia ... and many, many more! The fans of large South American fish must bide their time, however, until they reach the Amazon House (Station Nr. 7).

Station Nr. 6: Tropical salt-water

The enormous variety in the underwater world of tropical seas cannot really be given its due in any aquarium in the world. Visitors must decide for themselves whether we have succeeded in at least giving some idea of the beauty and diversity of this habitat by showing only a few chosen examples.

In the tropical salt-water section a multitude of highly colourful fishes swim, sometimes alone, sometimes in whole shoals or float with their symbiotic partners though underwater worlds of corals and seaweed with other invertebrates. All of this has been modelled as true to nature as possible. Ordinary clownfish, poisonous stone fish, bizarre little sea horses and weedy sea dragons, puffers and unicorn fish, groupers or triggerfish – everyone is sure to find their own personal favourite!

Station Nr.7: The Amazon House

A visit to the Amazon with its fish realm is also connected with a short journey at Wilhelma:

from the exit of the Aquarium the visitor must go past the sea lions, northern gannets and king penguins (these animals adore fish, which perhaps also makes them interesting to the fish fans), then reaching the Amazon House, where one takes the jungle pathway through the house until arriving at the glass pane in the side of the great river. There they all calmly swim in majestic greatness through the river waters, the Rotschwanzwelse, arrowanas, pacus and the somewhat smaller but highly colourful cichlids. Neither the toad-headed turtle nor the broad-snouted caiman seem to disturb them in the least.

In a total of 100,000 litres of water it should not be difficult, though, for each animal to find a little place for itself! After this look at the Amazon, the tour for fish friends is over – but maybe one or the other of the visitors might stay for a portion of fish fingers at the Restaurant.