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EXPLORE THE NEW AMAZON AT THE VANCOUVER AQUARIUM

VANCOUVER, B.C. – Looking for the perfect spring vacation? Consider the Amazon. The *Graham Amazon Gallery* at the Vancouver Aquarium will be transformed to include bewildering new animals and experiences from the most species-rich area of the world.

New to the Vancouver Aquarium, Goeldi's monkeys are small South American primates that live under the canopy of the rainforest and move with agility through thick forests.

Over 95 per cent of animal species living in the Amazon have no backbones. Explore a model of a life-sized buttress root to get up close and personal with hundreds of spineless wonders such as the greenbottle blue tarantula and the bark scorpion which will amaze and inspire curious minds of all ages.

Witness a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis and get carried away with the flurry of colourful butterflies released in the gallery daily.

“We invite you to enter a whole new world—teeming with fascinating Amazonian animals that are sure to enchant. You can see, touch, learn and share in this full body experience,” says Clint Wright, senior vice-president of operation and planning at the Vancouver Aquarium.

You think it's wet out there? The Amazon receives rain up to eight months of the year, making it twice as wet as Vancouver. “A unique encounter we've brought back to the Aquarium is the Tropical Rainstorm complete with thunder and lightning, that we're sure many visitors will remember and enjoy,” adds Wright. “We are inviting Vancouverites to get out of the cold weather and experience the tropical biodiversity in their own backyard.”

March 19th to April 30th: A Unique Spring Programming *Dora & Diego's 4D Adventure – Catch that Robot Butterfly!*

Start your Amazon experience with *Dora & Diego's 4D Adventure – Catch that Robot Butterfly!* Using 3D imagery, sensory seats and in-theatre 4D special effects, this new movie promises to engage explorers of all ages. Viewers young and old will be fascinated by the eye-popping chase from the warm rainforest to the icy Arctic. This multisensory experience will plunge you into a journey of discovery where you will encounter birds, snakes, insects and aquatic life. Make your way to the Graham Amazon gallery to see some of the animals featured in the 4D adventure live!

Amazon Feature Programs

Until April 30th, daily Amazon themed special programs led by our educational interpreters will showcase the diversity of this vast ecosystem. Learn more about the climate, birds, tiny insects, metre-long invertebrates and ferocious fish. Visitors are invited to check the website or the showboard upon arrival for details and schedules.

Extended Opening Hours

During the weeks of students' spring break, from March 19 to April 3, the Aquarium will have extended hours—from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day of the week. Details about the New Amazon program are available online at www.visitvanaqua.org/events/explore-the-new-amazon

About Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a global leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display, education, research, and direct action. Learn more at www.vanaqua.org.

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Note: Pictures and B-roll are available to the media. Please contact us to request the materials.

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