

MARINE HABITATS THROUGHOUT THE RESORT

1 Cenote

The endangered alligator (*gar* *Atractosteus*) spatula may grow up to 10 ft. and is aptly named from the Greek word "spathe" meaning any tool with a broad flat blade. Also look for catfish and cichlids.

2 Estuary Lagoon

Many of the newborns at Atlantis spend their early years in the safety of this shallow-waternursery environment. Southern stingrays (*Dasyatis americana*) and bonnethead sharks (*Sphyrna tiburo*) are frequent residents.

3 Reef Lagoon

The nurse sharks (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) spend significant amounts of time resting on the bottom while using their muscles to pump water over their gills.

4 Hibiscus Lagoon

Atlantis is home to several endangered species, including green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Today, plastic waste items, such as plastic grocery bags, pose a serious threat when they are mistaken for jellyfish and consumed by turtles. Please avoid the use of plastics and recycle.

5 Seagrapes Lagoon

Bahamian coral reef residents live here, from the queen angelfish (*Holacanthus ciliaris*) and French grunts (*Haemulon flavolineatum*) to assorted species of wrasse. Twenty-five percent of all marine fish species are found on coral reefs — one of the most endangered of all marine habitats.

6 Stingray Lagoon

(Feedings: 2 p.m. Tues. – Sun.)

The southern stingray (*Dasyatis americana*) can be hand-fed under the supervision of our aquarist team. These animals still have their barb, or "stinger," in place but use it only as a defense mechanism.

7 Water's Edge Lagoon

The migratory cownose ray (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) schools for protection, and this confuses potential predators that try to single out one individual. Blacknose shark (*Carcharhinus acronotus*) expectant mothers are moved to the safety of this exhibit to deliver their pups.

8 Predator Lagoon

The suspension bridge or overlook towers are the best places to view our great hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna mokarran*). The acrylic tunnel offers unique views of goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*), smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*), blacknose shark (*Carcharhinus acronotus*), tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) and Caribbean reef sharks (*Carcharhinus perezi*).

9 The Dig & Ruins Lagoon

Various species of jacks, grunts, snappers and zebra sharks (*Stegostoma fasciatum*) are found here. Zebra sharks are sluggish bottom-dwellers that eat crabs, shrimp and occasionally fish. Their long flexible tails enable them to reach into tight crevices to capture prey.

10 Royal Stingray Lagoon & Spotted Eagle Ray Lagoon

Home to spotted eagle rays (*Aetobatus narinari*) in one lagoon and southern stingrays (*Dasyatis americana*) and blacktip reef sharks (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*) in the other.

11 Mayan Temple Shark Lagoon

Shark finning, the removal of shark fins with the rest of the shark discarded at sea, threatens many shark species. Caribbean reef sharks (*Carcharhinus perezi*) and nurse sharks (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) grow to lengths of 10 ft. and 13 ft., respectively, and are fabulous examples of the top predators in our oceans.

12 Dolphin Cay

Bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) get their name from their bottle-shaped snout, or rostrum. But that snout is not actually their nose! Their nasal opening — or blowhole — is located on the top of their head. Visit the Dolphin Cay Education Center to learn more.



OUTDOOR DINING

- A Cave Grill
- B Pisces
- C Dive In
- D Riverbend Café
- E Breakwater's Grill
- DA Discover Atlantis Sales
- + Nurse/First Aid
- ★ Hospitality Center

