

# FUN FACTS



The Cà d'Zan (Că dă zăn), meaning “House of John”, is located on the bay in beautiful Sarasota, Florida. Built in the 1920's, this breathtaking structure was the home to John and Mable Ringling, of the Ringling Brothers family circus.



The Slocum Glider, used by the Mote Marine Laboratory, is an amazing tool that collects data from our ocean waterways. These sleek rocket-shaped machines gather important scientific information, and transmit the findings back to base through a satellite system. What a clever devise, aye?!



Reefs are frequently referred to as the “Rainforests of the Sea.” These spectacular coral dwellings provide shelter for 25% of all marine life, and supply tasty, nutritious meals for 30-40 million human beings every year.



Puffer fish are remarkable creatures. Their unusual design allows them to convert to a rigid, almost perfectly-shaped sphere, by inflating their body to 3 times its size, leaving potential attackers confused and frightened. Boo!



An octopus has 2 eyes, 8 legs, and 3 hearts. They're highly intelligent and have an excellent sense of touch. Swimming and crawling are common forms of travel, however, jet propulsion is utilized when the need is speed!!



Jellyfish have existed for over 650 million years. Whoa...that's longer than the dinosaurs! Coming in a variety of sizes, and an array of vibrant colors, these graceful organisms are often viewed as extraordinary works of art.



Did you know that manatees are closely related to the elephant? An adult can average about 10 ft. in length and weigh between 800 and 1,200 lbs. They can swim up to 20 mph, but tend to keep a pace of about 3-5 mph.



Queen Triggerfish are simply magnificent. They'll dazzle you with their distinctive glow-like markings, and their unique ability to adjust their shade from light to dark, depending on their mood. An incredible sight to behold.



Shrimp have this awesome ability to swim both forward and backward. With a high tolerance for toxins, they often eat what others pass by. Unfortunately for them, they're a great food source for larger animals!