

Journey to the bottom of the sea

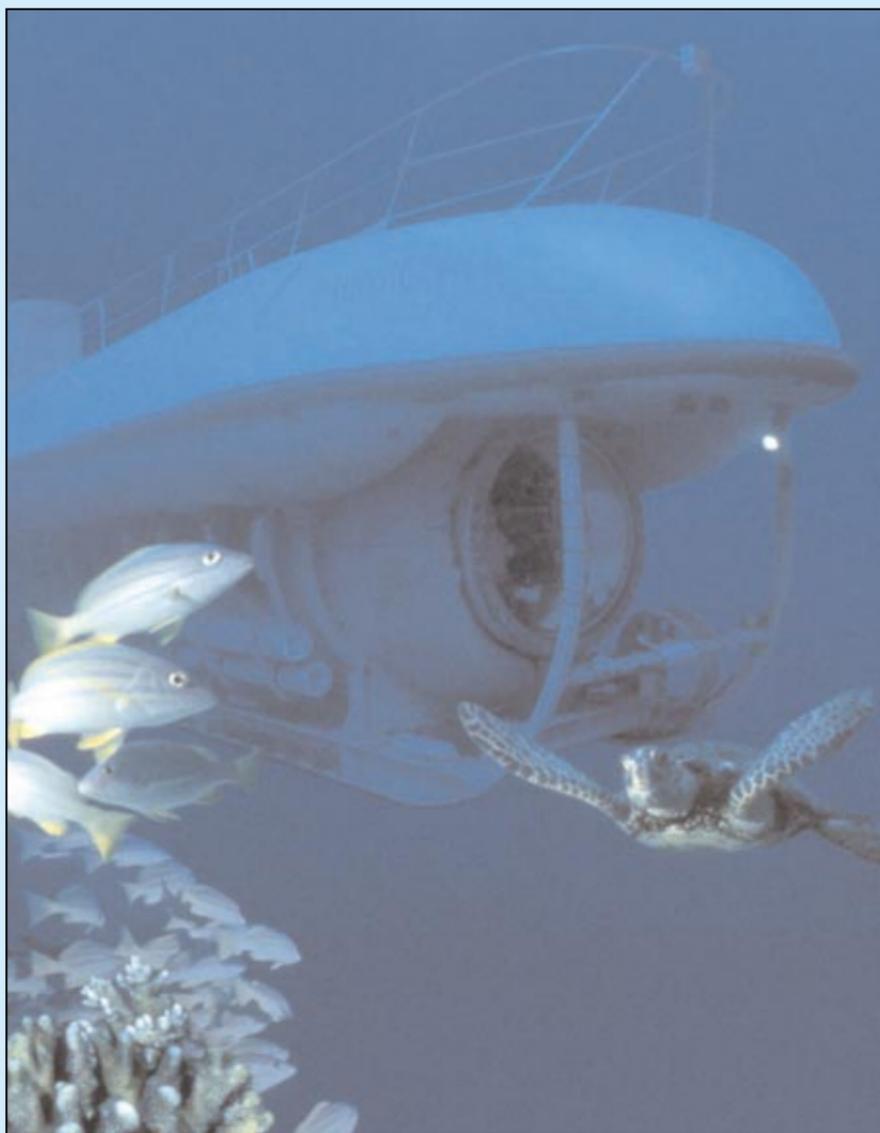


Photo courtesy of Atlantis Submarines

The Atlantis Submarine moves through colorful sea life and coral.



JO2 Jim Williams photo

Atlantis submarine rides offer first hand look at Hawai'i sea life

JO2 Jim Williams
 Editor

Snorkelers and scuba divers aren't the only one who can see first hand the colorful coral and wide variety of tropical fish in Hawaii's oceans.

The Pearl Harbor Information, Tickets and Reservations office offers tickets for a journey aboard Atlantis Submarines where you can enjoy a safe, comfortable dive into the depths of Hawaii's oceans and observe local sea life in its natural habitat.

The underwater adventure actually begins at the pier beside Hilton Hawaiian Village where you'll board a boat for a short ocean cruise out to the dive site. During the ride, you can enjoy spectacular views of the Waikiki coastline. From there you descend down the ladder for a 35 to 45-minute adventure aboard one of the state-of-the-art air-conditioned Atlantis submarines.

The 64 or 48-passenger submarines dive down approximately 100 feet to the ocean floor off Waikiki where a tour guide will narrate your trip and point out and identify the wide array of coral reefs, exotic fish, lazy turtles and perhaps a reef shark or two - all viewed through the many large view ports surrounding the sub.

"Our sub rides are really for everybody... both kids and adults," said Capt. Bob Thain, Atlantis' senior pilot. "For scuba diving you need a license and you have to take a class and buy a lot of gear. It's not easy so this keeps a lot of people from doing it. Snorkeling also limits you. You can't go very deep. So these sub rides are the answer for everyone else.

"We get a lot of Sailors from submarines," he added. "They never get the chance to see out the windows or even know what's going on outside. So a lot of sub guys come out just to see what's going on outside around them when they're in the water."

One of the highlights of the undersea tour is a giant World War II oil tanker lying dormant at the bottom of the ocean now serving as a home for countless fish and turtles. Nearby also are the remains of a smaller boat and a couple of old aircraft also serving as manmade reefs for the sea life to inhabit.

For many, this may be the only opportunity to experience the unusual world of Hawaii's oceans and to see these types of coral formations and marine life, 30 percent

of which are found nowhere else in the world, up close and personal and not in an aquarium.

"People seem to get especially excited when we see the large, endangered Hawaiian sea turtles or small sharks", said Capt. Bob. "And our professional marine life narrators are there to tell you all about what you're looking at. It makes it educational as well as entertaining and fun."

And now Atlantis has additional specials to make the experience better for both military and kamaaina.

After riding the submarine your first time, visit the ticket office or the on-board gift shop and pay \$25 more for an annual pass. Afterward, you can ride the subs at any of the three Hawaiian Atlantis sites (located in Waikiki, Maui and Kona) unlimited times during the following year. You also get a 50 percent discount for two guests, which can be nice when friends and family visit from the mainland.

Capt. Bob concluded by saying that 17 years ago, Atlantis opened the first public submarine tour anywhere. Now, with the amount of local sea life and coral growing larger every year and with the current I.T.R. prices and annual pass special, there couldn't be a better time to go.

"If you want to go underwater and spend a lot of time looking around without the problems that come with scuba diving, we're what you're looking for," he said.

For reservations, call I.T.R. at 473-0792 or Atlantis at 973-9811.



JO2 Jim Williams photo

Two sting rays glide along the ocean floor.



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Left: An Atlantis pilot guides the submarine along the ocean floor.

Above: A number of tropical fish can be found amongst the coral.

Right: Guests peer out the window at the sea life found in a sunken World War II oil tanker.



JO2 Jim Williams photo

Sam Snead's Tavern: First six months bring quality food, service

JO3 Tim Walsh
 Staff Writer

Sam Snead's Tavern opened at the Navy-Marine Corps Golf Course clubhouse just over six months ago. Since then, the high standard of quality of service and food, convenient location at competitive prices.

Sam Snead's palate-pleasing menu features a delicious cross-section of southern cuisine with a dash of Hawaiian flair - from appetizer and salad to main entrée and dessert.

Sam Snead's Tavern is not your ordinary grill and steakhouse. It is one of 11 in the country and the only one on the West Coast or in Hawaii. It also boasts Hawaii's only oak-fired grill. According to the tavern's executive chef, Daniel Kahalioumi, open flames from California oak logs seal a distinctive flavor on all of the grilled items. That makes every grilled entrée a signature dish.

Whether it's for lunch or dinner, diners will be impressed with the

moderate prices. A selection of salads and sandwiches start from \$6 and grilled specialties, which range from \$12 to \$24, include a serving of salad and a choice of baked potato, rice or pasta. Steak fans will love the choice cuts of beef, oak grilled to satisfaction.

"Our steak is all certified Angus beef. You don't get that at most restaurants," added Kahalioumi. "You can cut it with a fork."

The restaurant also offers exciting dinner entrees, ranging from Maryland-style jumbo crab cakes with remoulade saude to a 12 oz. Ribeye Steak served on Redskin Basil Mashed Potatoes.

"We want to be known as a place for great food, great service and great value," said Eric "Wolf" Levine, general manager of Sam Snead's Tavern. "We offer the freshest and the highest quality product."

In addition, being located at the clubhouse has added advantages. No matter where you sit in the restaurant, you'll get a wonderful view of the award-winning Navy-

Marine Golf Course. Even non-golfers can appreciate the beautiful, lush fairways and landscaping.

Inside, the décor is warm and exudes a feeling of down home comfort. On every wall are beautifully framed pictures that chronicle many precious moments of golf legend Sam Snead, the "PGA Golfer of the Century." Incidentally, Mr. Snead served in the Navy through World War II. Hence, Sam Snead's Tavern is especially fitting for Pearl Harbor.

Whether you're eating alone, or dining with friends or family, the cozy setting and hospitable service of Sam Snead's Tavern will make you feel like you're in a friend's dining room. The next time you are in the mood for comfort and a good, affordable meal, you may just find it at Sam Snead's Tavern. Come in at 3 p.m. for some deep fried 'niblicks' or in the early evening for parmesan-coated fried Brie.

There's always something on the menu to suit your fancy. A special keiki menu and highchairs are also available. Sam Snead's Tavern is a



JO3 Tim Walsh photo

Diners enjoy Sam Snead's palate-pleasing food along with a wonderful view of the award winning Navy Marine Corps Golf Course

smoke-free establishment.

The Tavern's future holds even more excitement for the food aficionado, with plans for cooking classes and wine-tasting dinners.

Even Mr. Snead himself agrees. This, he said, is "the best tavern at the best homeport in the Navy." And that, said Levine, is a promise to keep.

Sam Snead's Tavern is also offer-

ing "Kids Eat Free On Mondays."

One child, 12 or under, per accompanying adult can eat free from the Keiki menu every Monday.

Sam Snead's Tavern is open daily for lunch and dinner from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. to all service members, their families and Department of Defense employees. Reservations are recommended for large groups. For more information, call 421-SAMS.