



FESTIVAL OF SEAS 2026

GOTHIC TIDES

A HAUNTED GALA

Formal dinner and fundraising auction to benefit CCMI

Saturday 31st October 2026 | 6:30 - 11:45pm

Hotel Indigo Grand Cayman

reefresearch.org/festival-of-seas

YOU'RE INVITED...

Join the Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) on 31 October 2026, when the ocean reveals its darker beauty. Festival of Seas: Gothic Tides gala and fundraising dinner is where gothic elegance intersects with environmental action. Guests will be immersed in a night of dramatic spectacle, sophisticated dining, and unforgettable interactions, all in support of CCMI's mission to protect marine biodiversity for the future. This is more than an event; it's an invitation to gather in a night of mysterious elegance while making a tangible impact for the health of our ocean.

WHEN: Saturday 31st October 2026

WHERE: Hotel Indigo Grand Cayman

TIME: 6:30 pm Welcome Reception. 7:30 pm Dinner, guest speaker, live auction. 10:00 pm Music and dancing

ATTIRE: Gothic Halloween Formal. Embrace dark, gothic romance with rich velvets, sheer lace, and flowing silhouettes in deep jewel tones. Dramatic corsetry, statement sleeves, and layered textures set the tone, while bold accessories, metallic accents, and statement jewellery complete the look.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Dr. Ellen Prager, marine scientist, and Dave Jones, meteorologist; authors of *Megalodons, Mermaids, and Climate Change: Answers to Your Ocean and Atmosphere Questions*.

Our devoted supporters come from every corner of the Cayman Islands - from leaders in business, finance, and law, the tourism community, civic champions, to donors and friends who love the ocean - united to support CCMI in our mission to protect and restore coral reefs for the future. At this unforgettable gothic gala, join over 300 kindred spirits as we gather beneath candlelight to celebrate, educate, and raise money to safeguard one of the planet's most essential ecosystems.



LETTER FROM THE FIELD



Dear Patron of the Seas,

Beneath moonlight and shadow, the ocean whispers its secrets. At CCMI, we listen.

The past year has been one of extraordinary growth for CCMI, growth that has a visible and tangible impact in the Cayman Islands. Increasing our efforts for coral reefs is exceptionally critical at a time when these delicate ecosystems face unprecedented and mounting threats from climate change, coral disease, marine pollution, and human activity.

The new wet lab at the Little Cayman Research Centre will allow CCMI's in-house researchers as well as visiting scientists to conduct cutting-edge research on marine ecosystems, coral health, and reef restoration, thus cementing our role as a regional leader in marine science and education.

And thanks to the incredible generosity of 2025 gala supporters, Dart, and the Cayman Islands community, we have the funding to support

scholarships for the entire Year 6 cohort of students in Government Schools to attend the Marine Ecology Course at CCMI this fall! By providing this foundational experience, we are shaping the next generation of informed, passionate young people who will become community and business leaders as well as the decision-makers in the Cayman Islands.

These milestones, achieved amid growing environmental pressures, are evidence of what can be accomplished when a strong vision, cutting edge science, and a passionate community unite.

On 31 October 2026, we invite you to step into a world of extraordinary elegance at Festival of Seas: Gothic Tides, where candlelight, mystery, and dramatic energy meet urgent action. Proceeds from this event underpin CCMI's operations, ensuring key research, conservation, and education programmes run smoothly to protect and restore coral reefs, safeguarding the health of the ocean for the future.

For corporate partners, sponsorship of this event is an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in ESG and sustainability, signalling a commitment to real, measurable environmental impact locally in the Cayman Islands. You will receive visibility before an influential, values-driven audience while directly contributing to efforts that secure the future for coral reefs and the communities that rely upon them.

Join us for this evening of gothic allure as we confront the rising tide of threats, create meaningful impact for the Cayman community, and together work to ensure Cayman's vibrant coral reefs endure for generations to come.

With deep gratitude from the frontlines of the ocean,
CCMI Board of Directors and Staff

WHY SUPPORT CCMI?

The dedicated team of professionals at CCMI has a proven track record of results. We maintain a Candid. Platinum Seal of Transparency and have been awarded a Four-Star Rating with Charity Navigator. The organisation receives grants and donations specifically earmarked for research, education, and capital projects throughout the year, a testament to the confidence these funders have in our ability to deliver.

However, not all costs are supported through these grants. Due to recent funding and aid reductions from international universities and governments, funds raised at the Festival of Seas are more important than ever to support the operational needs of the Little Cayman Research Centre, including laboratories, utilities, building and equipment maintenance, salaries, facility supplies, and more. This event – and your involvement in it – underpins the very existence of CCMI, allowing us to continue our work uninterrupted.

Without immediate, science-based intervention, coral reefs face an uncertain future. But there is hope – and you can be part of the solution, supporting our work so we can have maximum impact for the future of coral reefs.

Your support of CCMI as climate change accelerates will help us expand our work to find impactful and scalable solutions to secure a future for coral reefs.

HIGHLIGHTS

70M2

Coral outplanted to the wild

50+

PhD, MSc students and internships

160+

Published scientific papers

200+

Visiting scientists

15KM+

Coral grown

1900+

Local scholarships awarded

400,000+

Reefs Go Live reach

\$1,000,000

Invested in field research each year



SOCIAL MEDIA

FOLLOWERS

f FACEBOOK
7,881

Instagram icon INSTAGRAM
4,126
+35.5%

YouTube icon YOUTUBE
700
+23.9%

Envelope icon MAILING LIST
11,300+

REACH

VEWS
FACEBOOK
1,012,618
INSTAGRAM
491,864

REACH
FACEBOOK
N/A
INSTAGRAM
67,176

INTERACTIONS
FACEBOOK
5,046
INSTAGRAM
7,348

PROFILE VISITS
FACEBOOK
11,023
INSTAGRAM
6,333

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

SPONSOR BENEFITS	DIAMOND SPONSOR CI \$10,000	PLATINUM SPONSOR CI \$7,500	GOLD SPONSOR CI \$5,000	SILVER SPONSOR CI \$2,500	CORAL PROTECTOR CI \$1,000	FEATURED SPEAKER ¹ CI \$12,500	WELCOME DRINKS CI \$5,000	PHOTO BOOTH ² CI \$5,000
Tickets to gala	10 VIP*	8 standard	6 standard	4 standard	--	8 VIP*	6 standard	4 standard
Seating/table location	Premium	Choice	Choice	Choice	--	Premium	Choice	Choice
The opportunity to address guests during gala	†	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Special acknowledgement on CCMI website	†	--	--	--	--	†	--	--
Company profile in the gala programme	†	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Company profile on CCMI webpage	†	--	--	--	--	†	--	--
Verbal recognition at the event by CCMI	†	†	--	--	--	†	†	†
Event slideshow profile	†	†	--	--	--	†	--	--
Colour advertisement in the gala programme	1/2 page	1/2 page	1/4 page	--	--	1/2 page	--	--
Inclusion in CCMI's Annual Report	†	†	†	†	--	†	†	†
Logo/name on online silent auction site	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Logo/name on digital collateral	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Logo/name on printed collateral	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Logo & link to company on event webpage	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Recognition via our social media channels	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Copy of gala programme	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Digital thank you image	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†

¹ 4 invitations to attend event featuring guest speaker; photo at gala with the speaker in commemorative event frame

² logo included in all digital and printed pictures (given free to all guests)

TICKETS AND TABLE PARTNERS

VIP TABLE PARTNER CI \$5500

Elevate your guests' Festival of Seas experience while demonstrating leadership in sustainability and community impact. VIP Table Partners receive an enhanced gala experience framed by refined detail and purposeful giving. Your investment at this level directly supports CCMI's research, education, and conservation programmes that deliver measurable environmental and social outcomes while elevating your guests' experience into an unforgettable evening of gothic sophistication and quiet opulence.

Benefits include:

EVENT HOSPITALITY

*One table of 10, premium location
Special food experience with wine pairing
Upgraded decorations and service*

BRAND RECOGNITION

Your corporate logo /name will be featured on:
*Printed collateral
Event website
Digital collateral
CCMI's Annual Report for 2026
Table sign*

TABLE PARTNER CI \$3250

Table Partners receive a refined gala experience set beneath candlelight and shadow, while directly supporting CCMI's research, education, and conservation programmes. Securing your Table Partner sponsorship contributes to measurable environmental impact, helping protect marine ecosystems and build a more sustainable future for coral reefs in Cayman.

Benefits include:

EVENT HOSPITALITY


One table of 10, choice location

BRAND RECOGNITION

Your corporate logo/name will be featured on:
*Select printed and digital collateral
CCMI's Annual Report for 2026
Table sign*

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS CI \$325 EA

Join us at Festival of Seas: Gothic Tides individually, as a couple, or with a few friends! Bathed in dark elegance of the deep, you'll enjoy an unforgettable evening of world-class dining and gothic spectacle while supporting CCMI's vital work to protect marine life and create a hopeful future of our ocean.



To become a sponsor or partner,
please contact us:

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