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## **AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC**

**WHAT:** The Aquarium of the Pacific's **mission** is to instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. Our **vision** is to create an aquarium dedicated to conserving and building natural capital (nature and nature's services) by building social capital (the interactions between and among peoples).

Beyond its world-class animal exhibits, the Aquarium offers educational programs for people of all ages, from hands-on activities to lectures by leading scientists. Through these programs and a variety of multimedia experiences, the Aquarium provides opportunities to delve deeper into ocean science and learn more about our planet. The Aquarium has redefined the modern aquarium. It is a community gathering place where diverse cultures and the arts are celebrated and a place where important topics facing our planet and our ocean are explored by scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders in the search for sustainable solutions.

The Aquarium features a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science on a Sphere®, which exhibits imagery and near-real-time ocean and weather data on a six-foot-diameter globe. It is also used to present daily shows covering topics such as sea level rise, aquaculture, and marine ecosystems. Throughout the year, the Aquarium features art exhibits, performing arts events, and cultural festivals as a way to engage new audiences and make science accessible.

The Aquarium was the first among museums, zoos, and aquariums in the nation to register its greenhouse gases and is a leader in green practices, including its LEED platinum SAVOR... Watershed classroom. The Aquarium has been awarded the Super Nova Star Award by the Alliance to Save Energy for being the nation's most energy-efficient business with revenues under \$150 million and the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award ([GEELA](#)). In October, the Aquarium was awarded a 2015 Cool Planet Award in the education sector from The Climate Registry and Southern California Edison for its efforts in energy and carbon management.

In addition to its public programs and exhibits, the Aquarium is involved in numerous conservation efforts, including sustainable seafood, watershed education, and ocean literacy. The Aquarium's team of scientific divers collects critical data used by a variety of ocean research institutes and reporting agencies. And through its Aquatic Forums, the Aquarium brings together scientists, educators, community leaders, and policymakers to develop solutions to complex environmental issues.

**WHERE:** The Aquarium is located on a site of more than six acres on Rainbow Harbor in Long Beach, California, across the water from the Long Beach Convention Center, Shoreline Village, and the Queen Mary Hotel and Attraction.  
**Address: 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802**

**SIZE:** Three football fields could fit into the Aquarium's expansive, three-story facility of approximately 360,000 square feet, which includes fifty exhibits and Behind-the-Scenes Tour areas. More than 11,000 ocean animals representing over 500 species reside in the Aquarium. Exhibits range in size and capacity from about 5,000 to 350,000 gallons.

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**GRAND OPENING:** Founded in June 1998, the Aquarium of the Pacific is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

**ATTENDANCE:** 1.6 million people visit the Aquarium annually

**RANK:** fourth most attended aquarium in the country

**AQUARIUM EXPERIENCE:** The journey through the Pacific Rim unfolds as visitors are guided through the Pacific Ocean's three major regions: Southern California/Baja, Northern Pacific, and the Tropical Pacific. The exhibits introduce the inhabitants and seascapes of the Pacific Ocean, while also focusing on specific conservation messages associated with each region. As visitors enter the Aquarium's vast Great Hall of the Pacific, a full-scale model of a blue whale, the largest animal in the world, floats high above their heads. Visitors are given a preview of what awaits in the Aquarium's main galleries, including an up-close look at Southern California/Baja, with the nearly three-story tall Honda Blue Cavern exhibit, home to leopard sharks, barracuda, and other kelp fish. Throughout the day, Aquarium guests can enjoy multimedia presentations in the Aquarium's Great Hall of the Pacific.

**Southern California & Baja:** Upon entering the first gallery, visitors explore familiar, temperate local waters. Seals and sea lions can be viewed in an up-close-and-personal indoor/outdoor setting. A kelp forest with California's state fish and many other fascinating animals are featured. This section includes the bilingual Gulf of California gallery featuring reef fish of Baja California, Mexico.

**Northern Pacific:** The temperature and atmosphere undergo a drastic change as visitors enter the Northern Pacific and are introduced to the ice-cold waters of Alaska, Russia, and northern Japan. Puffins and other diving birds nest overhead and "fly" underwater, while the sea otters frolic in a nearby habitat. After leaving the mesmerizing sea jellies and a giant Pacific octopus, bright sea stars and giant Japanese spider crabs await visitors. An interactive three-player sea otter conservation game is included in this gallery. This gallery features a NOAA Ocean Today kiosk exhibit, which provides guests with a national feed of ocean news and video as well as local stories created by the Aquarium. This kiosk is linked to the NOAA Ocean Today kiosk in the Sant Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC.

**Tropical Pacific:** Leaving the frigid world of the Northern Pacific, Aquarium explorers burst into the sun-splashed paradise of Micronesia. From coral lagoons to deep reefs, the islands of the Palau archipelago are among the earth's most beautiful spots. Visitors are introduced to a coral lagoon with colorful fish as well as to sea horses, and mysterious sea dragons. In the Aquarium's largest exhibit by volume, the Tropical Reef Habitat, sharks and colorful

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sea life swirl around visitors in a tunnel and through various viewing windows.

- Ocean Science Center:** Visitors can travel across the globe in an immersive multimedia experience to see how climate change, maritime trade and ports, aquaculture, and other topics impact our lives through the Ocean Science Center. The centerpiece of this gallery is a six-foot global display called Science on a Sphere that draws on technology from NOAA, enabling the Aquarium to show recent environmental occurrences, including tsunamis, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and more.
- Molina Animal Care Center:** The Molina Animal Care Center features an interactive exhibit, daily animal care shows, and the chance to see veterinary procedures.
- Special Exhibits:** Explore the mysterious realm of dragons and horses that dwell under the sea through new exhibits at the Aquarium. Featuring about a dozen species of seahorses and seadragons and their relatives, Horses and Dragons will showcase the wonder and diversity of these creatures from May 27, 2016, through March 31, 2017.
- Lorikeet Forest:** Lorikeet Forest is a walkthrough aviary filled with dozens of Australian lorikeets. Visitors can purchase a cup of nectar to feed these friendly birds that will land on your hand, arm, or even your head to get a sip of the nectar.
- Shark Lagoon:** Shark Lagoon is an educational adventure that features a main exhibit showcasing large sharks and two touch pools where visitors can reach in and touch more than 150 smaller sharks. Interactive displays are also part of Shark Lagoon, and Bamboo Bistro and the Pacific Treasures gift store are located next to it.
- June Keyes Penguin Habitat:** The June Keyes Penguin Habitat is home to numerous Magellanic Penguins and includes a space where visitors can crawl under the exhibit to feel as if they are inside with the animals. The habitat features educational exhibit panels and interactive touch screens where visitors can learn more about penguins and issues affecting their survival. Some of the birds in the Aquarium's habitat were rescued near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and deemed non-releasable to the wild because of health issues. Scientists speculate that these birds ended up stranded north of their normal range in search of food due to issues such as climate change and overfishing.
- AND MUCH MORE:**
- Aquarium educators host a variety of classes, daily presentations, Behind-the-Scenes Tours, daily whale watching, and programs for school and youth groups, families, adults, and children.
  - The Aquarium's indoor/outdoor restaurant, Café Scuba, offers a variety of entrees, including sustainable seafood, and views across the bay to the Queen Mary and the downtown Long Beach waterfront.

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- Hundreds of marine-related gifts, games, educational toys, souvenirs, and surprises are available at the Aquarium's main gift store, Pacific Collections.

**HOURS:** The Aquarium is open 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., every day of the year, except December 25 and the weekend of the Grand Prix of Long Beach in April 15-17, 2016. It is open until 8:00 p.m. on select summer and holiday Late Nights.

**ADMISSION:** General adult admission \$29.95 (12+), senior (62+) \$26.95, child (3-11) \$17.95, and free for children under age 3 and Aquarium members

**Annual Aquarium memberships are available. For information, please call 562/437-FISH or visit [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org).**

### **DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE:**

Inspired by the towering waves of the Pacific, the Aquarium's architecture mirrors the fluid and dynamic temper of the ocean.

- Developer: Kajima International, developers of the world's most critically acclaimed and technologically advanced aquariums.
- Architects: Los Angeles office of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum and Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis of San Francisco. EHDD designed many other award-winning marine exhibitions across the world.
- Contractors: Construction was a joint venture of Turner Construction Company and Kajima International.

### **CONSERVATION:**

Activities of the Aquarium's employees and volunteers extend far beyond its exhibits. The diverse environmental science and conservation ventures include:

- Conservation programs for endangered marine animals and habitats, including blue whale field research and the sea turtle Citizen Science Monitoring program;
- Housing of unreleasable marine mammals and birds from local care centers and marine parks;
- and local beach, street, and underwater clean-ups and habitat restoration efforts.

### **THE BOARD:**

A volunteer board of directors that includes leaders of the civic, marine sciences, corporate, and educational communities governs the Aquarium.

### **AQUARIUM EXECUTIVES:**

David Bader, director of education  
Anthony Brown, CFO  
Ryan Ashton, director of development  
Cecile Fisher, vice president of marketing and communications  
Perry Hampton, vice president of animal husbandry  
Kathie Nirschl, vice president of human resources  
Marilyn Padilla, director of public relations  
John Rouse, vice president of operations  
Tina Sarty, controller  
Jerry Schubel, president & CEO  
Jeff Spofford, director of retail operations

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### **VOLUNTEERS:**

More than 1,500 Aquarium volunteers dedicate over 160,000 hours annually in almost every department, helping to ensure quality care for the Aquarium's thousands of animals and excellent service for the approximately 1.6 million people who visit the Aquarium annually.

Facebook.com/AquariumofthePacific / Twitter: @AquariumPacific / YouTube.com/AquariumofthePacific

Aquarium in Español: aquariumofpacific.org/espanol / Twitter: @AcuarioPacifico

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