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## ***AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC***

- WHAT:** The Aquarium of the Pacific celebrates our planet's largest and most diverse body of water, the Pacific Ocean. A non-profit organization, the Aquarium of the Pacific is dedicated to education and conservation of our ocean environment.
- WHERE:** The Aquarium is located on a five-acre site on Rainbow Harbor in Long Beach, Calif.—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 156,735 square foot facility, which features 19 major habitats and 32 focus exhibits. More than 12,500 ocean animals, representing over 500 species, reside in the Aquarium. Exhibits range in size and capacity from about 5,000 to 350,000 gallons.
- GRAND OPENING:** June 20, 1998
- TOTAL INVESTMENT:** \$117 million
- 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, 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 *Blue Cavern Habitat*, home to leopard sharks, barracuda and other predatory fish. Throughout the day, Aquarium guests can enjoy the multimedia presentation *Whales: A Journey with Giants* in the Aquarium's Great Hall of the Pacific.

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### **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, reef fish from the Sea of Cortez, and many other fascinating animals are featured.

### **Northern Pacific**

The temperature and atmosphere undergo a drastic change as visitors enter the North 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 mysterious schooling fish and a giant Pacific octopus, bright sea stars and giant Japanese spider crabs await visitors.

### **Tropical Pacific**

Leaving the frigid world of the North 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, sea snakes, and mysterious sea dragons. In the Aquarium's largest exhibit, the *Tropical Reef Habitat*, sharks and colorful sea life swirl around visitors in a tunnel and through various viewing windows.

### **Special Exhibits**

The Aquarium of the Pacific features a changing Special Exhibits Gallery through March 31, 2008 that currently features the *Catch a Wave* exhibition. The Aquarium of the Pacific's *Catch a Wave* exhibition and program enables the public to experience the history of surfing, the science of waves and tsunamis, surf culture, and animals that live in the surf zone while learning how to help the ocean.

### **Explorers Cove**

In fall 2001, the Aquarium opened *Lorikeet Forest*, phase I of Explorers Cove, which is designed around a tropical island theme. *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. In summer of 2002, the Aquarium debuted phase II of *Explorers Cove*, *Shark Lagoon*, an educational adventure that features a large exhibit showcasing impressive sand tiger sharks, and touch pools where visitors can reach in and touch more than 150 sharks. Explorers Cove also features interactive displays, the Shark Shack gift store, and Bamboo Bistro.

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### AND MUCH MORE:

- Aquarium educators host a variety of classes, daily presentations, Behind-the-Scenes Tours, and more for school and youth groups, families, adults, and children.
- The Aquarium's indoor/outdoor restaurant, Café Scuba, offers delicious meals and delightful views across the bay to the Queen Mary and the downtown Long Beach waterfront.
- 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 a.m. to 6 p.m., every day of the year, except December 25 and the weekend of the Grand Prix of Long Beach on April 18, 19, & 20, 2008.

### ADMISSION:

General adult admission \$20.95 (12+), senior (62+) \$17.95, child (3-11) \$ 11.95, 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, breaking waves of the Pacific, the Aquarium's breathtaking 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 & Kassanbaum and Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis of San Francisco. EHDD designed the Monterey Bay Aquarium and 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 of the Pacific employees and volunteers extend far beyond exhibits. The diverse marine science and conservation ventures include:

- Breeding and conservation programs for endangered marine animals and habitats;
- Housing of unreleasable seals, sea lions, and sea otters from local care centers and marine parks;

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- Continuing efforts to remind visitors of the importance of recycling and conservation, and the hazards of pollution, over-harvesting, and habitat destruction of the Pacific;
- and local beach and street cleanups 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:**

Jeanne Brodeur, V.P., Development  
Amy Rosenberg, Director of Education  
Cecile Fisher, V.P., Marketing and Communications  
Perry Hampton, Director, Husbandry  
Vanessa Lewis, Chief Financial Officer/ V.P. Finance  
Barbara Long, V.P., Gov. Relations and Strategic Planning  
Kathie Nirschl, V.P., Human Resources  
John Rouse, V.P., Operations  
Jerry Schubel, President & CEO  
Mary Beth Armbruster, Director, Membership  
Jeff Spofford, Director, Retail Operations  
Tina Sarty, Controller

### **VOLUNTEERS:**

More than 700 Aquarium volunteers dedicate over 100,000 hours annually in almost every department, ensuring quality care for the Aquarium's thousands of animals and excellent service for the 1.4 million people who visit the Aquarium annually. The Aquarium's Volunteer Services Program was honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as the Outstanding Volunteer Organization in LA County for 2003.

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