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AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC'S 2012 ONGOING EXHIBITS AND ACTIVITIES

Guests will step into a world of discovery and exploration at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Representing nearly 500 species with more than 11,000 inhabitants of our planet's largest ocean, the Aquarium of the Pacific is a destination for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the animals, habitats, and issues surrounding our ocean. The Aquarium takes visitors on a journey through the three main regions of the vast Pacific Ocean: the temperate waters of Southern California and Baja; the icy Northern Pacific, off the coasts of Alaska, Russia, and Japan; and the warm Tropical Pacific, featuring the colorful coral reefs of Palau. Sea lions, sea otters, and diving birds are among the incredible animals found in these expansive galleries, and an animal-touch Discovery Lab is featured in the Northern Pacific gallery. Guests will also encounter the Aquarium's interactive Shark Lagoon and Lorikeet Forest as well as the Molina Animal Care Center, the Ocean Science Center, and the Arctic & Antarctic: Our Polar Regions in Peril gallery. Starting May 17, the Aquarium will open its first penguin exhibit, June Keyes Penguin Habitat, which features rescued Magellanic penguins. In its Honda Theater, the Aquarium offers educational films and its Guest Speaker Series, featuring leading experts, filmmakers, scientists, and authors who specialize in ocean and environmental topics. The Aquarium's Learning Center offers a diverse array of programs for children and young adults. It also offers adult courses with leading environmental experts through its Aquatic Academy, which can be taken for college education units (CEUs). The Aquarium of the Pacific is a non-profit organization with a mission "to instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems."

First Penguin Habitat Opens at Southern California's Largest Aquarium—On May 17, 2012, the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California, will debut a new permanent exhibit, home to the first penguins in the Aquarium's collection. The exhibit will feature Magellanic penguins, some of which were rescued from Brazil where they were stranded outside their native habitat. The penguins will join the Aquarium's collection of more than 11,000 animals in the institution's fifty exhibits representing the diversity of the Pacific Ocean.

Penguins / Great Hall Experience (Debuts May 17, 2012)— Step into the wondrous world of penguins at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Through a compelling multi-sensory experience of light, sound, and imagery, the Aquarium's Great Hall will transform into the realm of the Magellanic penguin. Guests will follow these beloved animals on their travels in search of food in the waters off South America.

Ocean Science Center Gallery— Journey around the globe to explore the atmosphere, ocean, and continents with an immersive exhibit that uses new technology to take you on a virtual exploration. You'll see how climate change and maritime trade and ports impact our lives no matter where we live on the planet. The Ocean Science Center is the Aquarium's newest permanent gallery and uses state-of-the-art technology from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Arctic & Antarctic Gallery—The Aquarium changing exhibit gallery is featuring an exhibition that highlights Arctic and Antarctic animals and tells the story of how these amazing environments are in peril because of climate change. The new exhibition is called *Arctic and Antarctic: Our Polar Regions in Peril* and features a sea jelly touch tank, king crabs, Arctic char, feather stars, northern anchovies, multimedia exhibits, and more.

Lorikeet Forest—Feed colorful birds from down under in the Aquarium of the Pacific's Lorikeet Forest aviary. More than 100 enthusiastic Lorikeets fill the trees of their 5,200 sq. ft. outdoor exhibit. For a few dollars, Aquarium guests can purchase a small cup of the Lorikeet's favorite food—nectar! Simply by holding a cup of nectar in their outstretched hands, guests enjoy the opportunity to feed these friendly birds.

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Shark Lagoon—The Aquarium of the Pacific features our nation's first full-scale shark touch exhibit. Guests will discover more than 200 sharks in this ultimate interactive exhibit. They will get closer to sharks than they ever imagined, and come face-to-face with large sharks, sand tiger, nurse, blacktip and whitetip reef, and even touch gentle sharks, such as zebra, epaulette, and bamboo. People of all ages will learn the truth behind these fascinating and often misunderstood animals with fun displays and daily shark feeding presentations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Weedy Sea Dragon Exhibit—Visitors have the opportunity to see weedy sea dragons, which are native to Australia and resemble the plants found in their local waters. The Aquarium of the Pacific was the first aquarium in the world to successfully breed and raise these delicate creatures.

Daily Presentations, Films, and Programs—The Aquarium offers daily presentations with its seals and sea lions, sea otters, and sharks as well as underwater presentations with divers, who are equipped with microphones. The Marine Life Theater offers daily interactive family education programs, and the Honda Theater offers educational films that relate to our ocean planet, including a 4D film. Guests should refer to their "Showtimes" schedule on the day of their visit to take advantage of these daily programs, included with admission. http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/visit/presentations_tours/

Behind-the-Scenes /Boat Cruises—Aquarium of the Pacific guests can dive deeper into the Aquarium by taking a Behind-the-Scenes journey and embarking on a boat cruise. Behind-the-Scenes adventurers will learn the secrets of the aquarium trade, meet new sea animal babies, and even have the opportunity to touch and feed some animals behind-the-scenes (offered daily, adventurers must be at least 7 years of age). Guests can become oceanographers for the day aboard the Aquarium's chartered boat on a journey to explore the marine wildlife and the environment of Long Beach Harbor. Guests may purchase a combo ticket on the day of their visit, which includes Aquarium admission and a Behind-the-Scenes Tour, admission and the boat cruise or all three. For more information, call 562/590-3100 or visit http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/visit/prices_hours

Daily Whale Watch—The public is invited to embark on seasonal whale watch adventures through the Aquarium of the Pacific's educational Whale Watch. Whales, dolphins, seals, and birds all make incredible journeys along our coast, ranging from a few hundred miles to many thousands. Adventurers will explore the nearby seas aboard Harbor Breeze Cruises to seek out such travelers as the gray whale, blue whales, fin whales, bottlenose dolphin, sea lion, and a host of migratory waterfowl. The two- to three-hour ocean adventure will include an educational presentation by an Aquarium marine naturalist and various hands-on learning activities for children of all ages. Included in the Whale Watch price is admission to the Aquarium of the Pacific. In addition to their whale cruise, guests can visit over 11,000 other Pacific animals and learn more about whales through the Whales: Voices in the Sea kiosk exhibit as they explore the Aquarium. For more information, call 562/590-3100 or visit http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/programs/category/boat_programs

Animal Encounter—This exciting two-hour program offers guests the opportunity to learn about the care of the Aquarium's animals—firsthand! Participants will spend time with animal biologists and have the opportunity to touch and feed several animals in an up-close and personal setting. Animal Encounter offers guests the choice of three programs, the Sea Lion/Seal, Shark, or Sea Otter Animal Encounter. The highlight of the Sea Lion/Seal Animal and Sea Otter Encounters is meeting with a mammal expert to prepare food and to get a close-encounter with a loveable animal for a feeding and training session. The Shark Animal Encounter highlight is meeting with a shark biologist to prepare food to feed these apex predators as well as to get in the water with a zebra shark or 240 lb ray. Starting on June 2, 2012, the Aquarium will offer its NEW Penguin Animal Encounter. The Animal Encounter program is offered on weekends by reservation only. Age and height restrictions apply. Cost is \$90 per person (discount available for Aquarium members). For more information visit http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/programs/category/animal_encounters or for information and reservations call (562) 590-3100.

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Dive Immersion—Journey into the warm, 350,000-gallon Tropical Reef Habitat to meet more than 1000 tropical fish and sea turtles up close and personal. In this two- and a half-hour experience, you get a personal behind-the-scenes tour of the Aquarium's dive program, a dive in the Aquarium's largest exhibit, a certificate of completion, souvenir towel, use of a HD underwater camera, and a memory card of your photos to take home. All equipment provided. A minimum of an Open Water certification from a nationally recognized scuba certifying agency and a picture I.D. are required and must be brought with you on your diving day. Offered daily from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. with reservation. Cost is \$299 per person. For more information visit http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/info/dive_immersion or for information and reservations call (562) 590-3100.

Education Programs—The Aquarium of the Pacific offers a variety of hands-on education programs for individuals from age two to adult, including courses, lectures, summer day camp, family sleepovers, parent and child classes, and family workshops. Programs feature various marine topics and may include animal interaction. The Aquarium offers a diverse array of programs for children and young adults in the Boeing Learning Center. It also offers adult courses through its Aquatic Academy. The Aquarium also features the Aquarium on Wheels outreach vehicle and a scholarship program for underserved schools, in which the Aquarium works with outside organizations and individuals to sponsor these visits. For information, visit <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/programs> or call (562) 590-3100.

Annual Events—The Aquarium of the Pacific features a variety of events throughout the year, including cultural festivals, a guest speaker series, holiday events, beach clean-ups, food and wine events, and much more. For upcoming public events, visit <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/events/calendar> or call (562) 590-3100.

General Information

Location: Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802

Hours: The Aquarium is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, except on December 25 and during the weekend of the Long Beach Grand Prix April 13-15, 2012. Extended hours on select weekends and holiday periods.

Admission: General Admission--\$24.95 adult (12+), \$21.95 senior (62+), \$13.95 child (3-11), and free for children under age 3 and Aquarium members.

For admission and tour combo prices, please visit www.aquariumofpacific.org or call (562) 590-3100.

Membership: For \$115 guests can purchase a family membership to enjoy unlimited free admission for one year as well as discounts on food and gifts at the Aquarium and other benefits. The Aquarium also offers various other memberships, including individual and senior rates. For more information on membership categories and benefits, visit <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/give/membership/> or call (562) 590-3100.

Public Info: (562) 590-3100 or www.aquariumofpacific.org

*Prices and dates subject to change. Please visit the Aquarium's website for updates.

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