

## **AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC'S 2017 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 penguins 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 much more. In its Ocean 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 education department 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 continuing 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. The Aquarium is dedicated to conserving and building natural capital (nature and nature's services) by building the interactions between and among people.

**FROGS: Dazzling and Disappearing—May 26, 2017, through March 31, 2018, the Aquarium will open this new exhibition.** Visitors will discover the dazzling diversity of frogs and their amphibian relatives. More than two dozen animals in thematic displays, educational graphics, and interactive exhibits will highlight the beauty of and threats to these remarkable animals. The exhibit will trace the history of amphibians, their life cycles, the different environments they live in from deserts to rainforests, the diversity of species, and their surprisingly uncertain future.

***Vanishing Animals and Horses and Dragons***—The Aquarium of the Pacific is hosting two new exhibitions. Featuring about a dozen species of seahorses and seadragons and their relatives, *Horses and Dragons* showcases the wonder and diversity of these creatures. While Pegasus is a mythical creature, did you know that winged horses really do exist in the ocean? Or that male seadragons carry eggs until they hatch, and that seahorses can change color? Visitors can see and learn more about the unusual animals in the Syngnathid group, which includes the sea moth (also known as Pegasus), seahorses, seadragons, pipefish, and razorfish, through exhibit displays, a film in the Great Hall, and education programs in the Marine Life Theater through March 31, 2017. Coinciding with this opening, the Aquarium transformed its changing exhibits gallery to focus on animal extinctions and how humans can take actions now to prevent the magnitude of extinctions on land from happening in the ocean. The *Vanishing Animals* exhibition features both aquatic and terrestrial animals as well as multimedia and interactive displays, including new films in the Ocean Science Center and Ocean Theater also open through August 31, 2017.

**June Keyes Penguin Habitat**—The June Keyes Penguin Habitat features Magellanic Penguins, some of which were rescued from Brazil, where they were stranded outside their native habitat.

**Ocean Science Center Gallery**—Journey around the globe to explore the atmosphere, ocean, and continents with an immersive exhibit that uses 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. Other shows cover the topics of sustainable seafood, El Nino, extreme weather, ocean exploration, and more. The Ocean Science Center uses state-of-the-art technology from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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**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 square-foot outdoor exhibit. For a few dollars, Aquarium guests can purchase a small cup of the lorikeets' favorite food—nectar! Simply by holding a cup of nectar in their outstretched hands, guests enjoy the opportunity to feed these friendly birds.

**Shark Lagoon**—Shark Lagoon at the Aquarium of the Pacific features our nation's first full-scale shark touch exhibit. Guests will discover more than 100 sharks in this ultimate interactive exhibit. They will get closer to sharks than they ever imagined by touching gentle bamboo and epaulette sharks. They can also view large sharks like the sand tiger shark and zebra shark. People of all ages will learn the truth behind these fascinating and often misunderstood animals through displays and daily shark feeding presentations at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

**Weedy Seadragon Exhibit**—Visitors have the opportunity to see weedy seadragons, 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 and is also home to leafy seadragons.

**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 Ocean Theater offers educational films that relate to our ocean planet, including 4D films. Guests should refer to their "Show Times" schedule or Aquarium Explorer app on the day of their visit to take advantage of these daily programs, included with admission. [http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/visit/presentations\\_tours/](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/visit/presentations_tours/)

**Behind-the-Scenes Tours/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](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 gray whales, blue whales, fin whales, bottlenose dolphins, sea lions, 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](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/programs/category/boat_programs)

**Animal Encounter**—This one-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 meet and feed several animals in an up-close and personal setting. An Animal Encounter offers guests the choice of four programs, the Sea Lion, Shark, Penguin, or Sea Otter Animal Encounter. The highlight of the Sea Lion Animal and Sea Otter Encounters is meeting with a mammal expert to prepare food and experience 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 feed these apex predators. The Aquarium also offers Penguin Animal Encounters with our Magellanic Penguins (except during breeding

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season, which occurs in spring and summer). All Animal Encounters are offered by reservation only. Age restrictions apply. For more information visit

[http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/programs/category/animal\\_encounters](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/programs/category/animal_encounters) or for information and reservations call (562) 590-3100.

**Dive Immersion**—Journey into the warm, 350,000-gallon Tropical Reef Habitat to meet more than 1,000 tropical fish, sharks, and sea turtles up close. 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 an HD underwater camera, and a memory card of your photos to take home. All equipment is 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. This program is offered daily from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with reservation. For more information visit [http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/info/dive\\_immersion](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 adults, including courses, lectures, summer and winter day camps, 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 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 performing arts productions, art exhibitions, cultural festivals, a guest speaker series, holiday events, beach clean-ups, culinary events, and 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 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily, except on December 25 and during the weekend of the Long Beach Grand Prix, April 7-9, 2017. Extended hours on select weekends and holiday periods.

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

For admission/tour combo prices, visit [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org) or call (562) 590-3100.

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

**Public Info:** (562) 590-3100 or [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

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