CORAL REEFS
NATURE’S UNDERWATER CITIES
Visitor Guide & Map
Aquarium of the Pacific
Get embossed like a boss! Let us help.

Check out the map to find the 8 embossing stations. Emboss pages 7, 9, 15, 19, 21, 25, 27 & 29, and bring your visitor guide to the Member Services Desk for a free surprise.

Aquarium of the Pacific Sponsor

SoCal Honda Dealers Helpful
GENERAL INFORMATION
Welcome to the Aquarium of the Pacific. Use this Visitor Guide and Map to discover the wonders of the ocean.

FIRST AID/EMERGENCIES
If possible, please proceed to Member Services near the main entrance, or contact the nearest staff member.

LOST & FOUND
See map for restroom locations. There are changing stations in all restrooms on levels one and two in the Great Hall and by Shark Lagoon. A baby care room is located off of the first floor women’s restroom.

NO SMOKING OR GUM
Smoking, vaping, gum, and balloons are not allowed in the Aquarium. Please use trash and recycling bins. Do not toss objects into the exhibits.

VISITOR INFORMATION
Visit Member Services located in the Great Hall near the main entrance to inquire about tours, Aquarium membership, and special events.

REFRESHMENTS
Café Scuba on level two serves a selection of sandwiches, salads, and grilled entrees, including sustainable seafood and vegan options. Bamboo Bistro offers pizza, hot dogs, cold beer, and refreshments. The Blue Whale Café in the Great Hall serves coffee, cappuccinos, sodas, and snacks.

CREDIT CARDS
We accept VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.

AMAZING PICTURES
Purchase a unique souvenir of your Aquarium visit with this fun photo opportunity located in the Great Hall.

ADDITIONAL ADVENTURES
The programs below have an additional cost. Please visit Member Services for times, pricing, and availability. For advance reservations, please call (562) 590-3100.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR
Go behind the scenes on this one-hour guided tour. Visit parts of the Aquarium generally off limits to the public. Go above our largest exhibit to feed the fish. Age restrictions apply.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS
Tour with an educator and interact with the animals and animal care staff. Age restrictions apply. Advance reservation required.

HARBOR TOURS
Tour the Long Beach/Los Angeles Harbors with Harbor Breeze Cruises for a 45-minute narrated cruise around one of the most active ports in the world.

VIP EXPERIENCES
Go on a private tour with exclusive, up-close animal experiences. Age and height restrictions apply. Advance reservations required.

WHALE WATCHING
Explore the nearby ocean with an Aquarium naturalist to seek out local marine life such as whales, dolphins, sea lions, and migratory birds.

DIVING IMMERSION
Dive in an Aquarium exhibit. Restrictions apply. Advance reservations required.

VISITOR APP
Download our Visitor App from the App Store or Play Store. It features show schedules, interactive maps, animal IDs, and more.

AQUARIUM WIFI
The Aquarium offers free WiFi throughout the facility. Select the network named AquariumWiFi. No password is required.
The Aquarium’s Ocean Theater features free educational and 3D films. *Sammy & Ray 3D* and *Hurricane 3D* play daily.

**New: Restoring Coral Reefs**
Plays daily in the Ocean Theater.

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**OCEAN SCIENCE CENTER**

The Ocean Science Center uses the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Science on a Sphere® to tell stories about our planet. See the Ocean Science Center entrance for posted show times.

**Shows**

Four shows from the Aquarium’s library of more than a dozen play throughout the day on rotation. Learn about ocean and environmental issues and see their effects on a global scale. Shows feature music, narration, and Spanish language subtitles.
PACIFIC VISIONS

Learn about our relationship with our planet with high-tech multimedia exhibits, art installations, animal exhibits, and shows.

Art Gallery
Explore underwater worlds of coral and plankton through video projections, soundscapes, and sculptures, including some you can touch. Digitally color a fish and send it to swim in a virtual coral reef projection.

Orientation Gallery
In this pre-show space just outside the theater, take a visual journey through the history of life on Earth and contemplate our connections with the ocean. Interact with a virtual waterfall and see how it moves around you.

Pacific Visions EcoAlliance App
Continue the Pacific Visions experience after your visit and make commitments to sustainability.
Coral Reefs
Experience a stunning virtual coral reef dive in the new show, Our Future is in Cities: On Land and In the Ocean. Explore the diversity of coral reefs and how we can protect them.

Designing Our Future
Find out how we can provide enough food, energy, and water for a growing population while conserving nature.

Olympia Oyster
Ostrea lurida
Olympia oysters are found in estuaries, tidal channels, and bays along the West Coast of North America, from southern Alaska to Baja California, Mexico. They can grow up to 3 inches in length.

Culmination Gallery
Learn more about our relationship with our planet and what you can do to create a better future for both humans and nature.

Can oysters make the water they live in cleaner?
Find the answer at the exhibit.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/BAJA GALLERY

This gallery represents the Southern California and Baja coasts, between Point Conception in Santa Barbara and the tip of Baja California, Mexico.
Giant Sea Bass Breeding
The Aquarium and other partners are working to raise this endangered fish to help increase populations in the wild.

HONDA BLUE CAVERN
The Honda Blue Cavern Habitat is modeled after Blue Cavern Point, an underwater cavern along the coast of Santa Catalina Island.

CALIFORNIA MORAY EEL
*Gymnothorax mordax*

WHITE SEA BASS
*Atractoscion nobilis*

CALIFORNIA SHEEPHEAD (MALE)
*Semicossyphus pulcher*

Leopard Shark
*Triakis semifasciata*
The leopard shark gets its name from its markings. These sharks are commonly found near the shore off California's coast and hunt for food on the ocean floor. They average 3 to 5 feet in length.

How long do leopard sharks live?
Find the answer at the exhibit.
AMBER FOREST

The Amber Forest exhibit represents the diverse marine life that depends on kelp forests.

ABALONE

The Aquarium has a behind-the-scenes abalone lab where red and white abalone are raised. Along with other aquariums and labs, we are breeding endangered white abalone and releasing them off the coast of Southern California to help this species avoid extinction.

WHITE ABALONE
Haliotis sorenseni

TREEFISH
Sebastes serriceps

BLUE ROCKFISH
Sebastes mystinus

BAT STAR
Patiria miniata

GARIBALDI
Hypsypops rubicundus

FLAG ROCKFISH
Sebastes rubrivinctus

BLACK ROCKFISH
Sebastes melanops

TREEFISH
Sebastes serriceps

BLUE ROCKFISH
Sebastes mystinus

BAT STAR
Patiria miniata

GARIBALDI
Hypsypops rubicundus

FLAG ROCKFISH
Sebastes rubrivinctus

BLACK ROCKFISH
Sebastes melanops

ANDREW REITSMA
SEALS & SEA LIONS

Seals and sea lions live throughout our coastal waters. Sea lions can be identified by the presence of ear flaps and their ability to walk using their front flippers. Seals do not have ear flaps and move on their bellies on land.

CALIFORNIA SEA LION
Zalophus californianus

HARBOR SEAL
Phoca vitulina

LORIKEET FOREST

Our aviary is home to more than 100 lorikeets native to Australia.

SWAINSON’S LORIKEET
Trichoglossus haematodus moluccanus

GREEN-NAPED LORIKEET
Trichoglossus haematodus haematodus

EDWARD’S LORIKEET
Trichoglossus haematodus capistratus
Insect Hunters
Archerfish have the ability to spit a jet of water above the surface as a method of hunting insects and other prey. Adult archerfish are exceptionally accurate, whereas young archerfish are still learning how to aim and often miss.

Amphibious Lifestyle
Mudskippers can live both underwater and on land. Underwater, they breathe and move like most fish. On land, they get oxygen through their skin and move by jumping and using their fins to walk.

ATTENTION: For the health and safety of our animals, please be gentle!

Use only two fingers!
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STEELHEAD STORY

This immersive exhibit tells the history of local waterways and the story of the Southern California steelhead fish species and its importance in the local ecosystem. After coming close to extinction, the Southern California steelhead was listed as an endangered species in 1997.

Threats
Over the years steelhead have faced many threats such as pollution, drought, and dams and concrete channels that have prevented them from traveling upstream.

Our Water Future
Learn more about where our water comes from and ways to conserve water in our daily lives. See how you can save water at home with appliances, landscaping, and other daily activities.
Coral Reef Sharks
Sharks that live around coral reefs keep fish populations in check, which helps maintain a healthy reef.

SHARK LAGOON
Learn more about the ocean’s top predators at Shark Lagoon.

SAND TIGER SHARK
*Carcharias taurus*

BLACKTIP REEF SHARK
*Carcharhinus melanopterus*

GREY REEF SHARK
*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*

ZEbra SHARK
*Stegastoma fasciatum*

RETICULATE WHIPTAIL RAY
*Himantura uarnak*
WHITE-SPOTTED BAMBOO SHARK  
*Chiloscyllium plagiosum*

EPAULEtte SHARK  
*Hemiscyllium ocellatum*

BROWN-BANDED BAMBOO SHARK  
*Chiloscyllium punctatum*

COWNOSE RAY  
*Rhinoptera bonasus*

**ATTENTION:** For the health and safety of our animals, please be gentle!  
Use only two fingers!

**Olive Ridley Sea Turtle**  
*Lepidochelys olivacea*

Olive ridley sea turtles prefer warmer tropical and subtropical waters. They grow to about 2 to 2.5 feet long.

Where do olive ridley sea turtles lay their eggs?  
Find the answer at the exhibit.
MOLINA ANIMAL CARE CENTER

The Aquarium's Molina Animal Care Center includes a veterinary hospital, animal holding tanks, and a public exhibit.

SUSTAINABLE REEFKEEPING

Learn about maintaining responsibly sourced home aquariums at the exhibits near the Molina Animal Care Center.

Coral Aquaculture
Many corals can be farmed or aquacultured through asexual propagation. Hobbyists are encouraged to sustainably source cultured corals and fish for their home aquarium.

Designer Species
Clownfish that are bred under managed care can sometimes have unusual patterns like this "designer" clownfish.
JUNE KEYES PENGUIN HABITAT

The June Keyes Penguin Habitat features Magellanic penguins native to South America.

Breeding
The Aquarium has had numerous successful breeding seasons since the penguin exhibit opened in 2012. Thirteen chicks have been born at the Aquarium.

Penguin Conservation
The Aquarium is part of the Species Survival Plan for Magellanic penguins. This program carefully tracks the population under human care to ensure genetic diversity.
RAY HABITAT TOUCHPOOL

Gently touch a bat ray or shovelnose guitarfish while learning about these animals from education staff members.

ATTENTION: For the health and safety of our animals, please be gentle!

Use only two fingers!

SHOVELNOSE GUITARFISH
Rhinobatos productus

BAT RAY
Myliobatis californica

SHOREBIRD SANCTUARY

This exhibit represents a tidal wetland. Wetlands provide food, breeding areas, and nursery grounds for fish, mammals, and birds. They also provide flood control for our coastline.

WHITE IBIS
Eudocimus albus

BLACK-NECKED STILT
Himantopus mexicanus

AMERICAN AVOCET
Recurvirostra americana
The Vaquita Story

The vaquita porpoise, found only in the Gulf of California, is on the verge of extinction, with six to twelve remaining in the wild. Learn more at aquariumofpacific.org.

The Gulf of California

The Gulf of California is one of the world’s most biologically productive and diverse seas.

Splendid Garden Eel

_Gorgasia preclara_

Splendid garden eels use their tails to dig burrows in the sand. They live in tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific and feed on tiny animals that float by in the current.

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How long are splendid garden eels?

Find the answer at the exhibit.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC GALLERY

The Aquarium’s Northern Pacific Gallery focuses on the Bering Sea.
SEA JELLIES

Sea jellies are found in ocean waters around the world. They lack a heart, brain, and lungs and have existed on Earth for at least 500 million years.

Crystal Jelly
*Aequorea victoria*

Crystal jellies live in the northern Pacific, mainly off Washington and British Columbia. They grow up to 10 inches wide and have long, delicate tentacles.

Why are these jellies important to science?

Find the answer at the exhibit.
Conservation
Southern sea otters are a protected species in California. They were hunted to near extinction in the 1900s and still face threats including oil spills, pollution, and climate change. The Aquarium of the Pacific is working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium to help save orphaned sea otters.
The Aquarium's Tropical Pacific Gallery represents many tropical habitats, including Indonesia and the archipelago of Palau, the western-most section of Micronesia.
Coral reefs are among the ocean's most diverse ecosystems. They are home to a quarter of all ocean fish species and are found throughout the world. Explore coral reefs in the new Tropical Pacific Gallery exhibits to learn what is being done and what you can do to help them survive and thrive in a changing ocean.

Between the shore and the outer barrier reef, coral lagoons provide protected areas to serve as nurseries for young fish. In these shallow waters, fish can hatch and grow while safe from predators.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service occasionally confiscates illegally traded live corals, and the Aquarium of the Pacific provides a home for some of these corals in our exhibits. The illegal coral trade is worth tens of millions of dollars a year.
**CORAL LIFE CYCLE**

Corals reproduce by spawning eggs and sperm that fertilize in the water. Once the resulting larvae settle, they can bud off clones.

**FROGS: DAZZLING & DISAPPEARING**

Discover close to two dozen species of frogs and other amphibians. Learn how this fascinating class of animals relies on both land and water to survive.

**Clownfish**
*Amphiprion ocellaris*

These fish live on coral reefs and in lagoons in tropical waters. They have a special relationship with their host anemone and rarely leave it. The anemone protects the fish, and the fish helps clean and feed the anemone.

**GREEN AND BLACK POISON DART FROG**
*Dendrobates auratus*

How do clownfish avoid being stung?

Find the answer at the exhibit.
Coral Predators

Parrotfish use their large, sharp teeth to eat coral. They feed on the algae that lives in the coral’s tissues and digest the calcium carbonate skeleton into the fine, white sand we find on tropical beaches. Through this process, parrotfish and other animals that eat coral help control coral growth.

Hidden Potential

Losing coral reefs to pollution, overfishing, and climate change would mean losing potential benefits that have yet to be discovered. They could provide new medicines and food, protect our coasts from rising seas, and more.
GLOWING REEF

Some corals absorb blue and ultraviolet light and then emit lower-energy fluorescent light. The reason why is still a mystery, but fluorescence is a sign that corals are healthy. The color shift might work like sunscreen to protect the delicate corals in shallow waters from intense tropical sunlight.

DEEP REEF

Corals living in deep water do not receive intense sunlight like their shallow-water relatives. Animals that live in this dark environment include corals, sponges, and tubeworms.

Flashlight Fish
Family Anomalopidae

Flashlight fish live in the Indo-Pacific Ocean. These fish have organs near their eyes that contain bioluminescent bacteria that emit light. The fish can rotate the light organs to flicker on and off to detect prey in the dark.

Are these fish more active during the day or at night?

Find the answer at the exhibit.
TROPICAL REEF

The Tropical Reef Habitat is the Aquarium’s largest exhibit, containing 350,000 gallons of saltwater and more than 500 animals.

**BLUEFIN TREVALLY**
*Caranx melampygus*

**EMPEROR SNAPPER**
*Lutjanus sebae*

**SEMICIRCLE ANGELFISH**
*Pomacanthus semicirculatus*

**BLUE-LINED SNAPPER**
*Lutjanus kasmira*

**EMPEROR ANGELFISH**
*Pomacanthus imperator*

**SAILFIN TANG**
*Zebrasoma veliferum*

**SERGEANT MAJOR**
*Abudefduf vaigiensis*

**ACHILLES TANG**
*Acanthurus achilles*

**ORANGESPINE UNICORNFISH**
*Naso lituratus*

**REDTOOTH TRIGGERFISH**
*Odonus niger*

**BLUEFIN TREVALLY**

**BONNETHEAD SHARK**
*Sphyra tiburo*

**BLUESPINE UNICORNFISH**
*Naso unicornis*
CORAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Aquarium has partnered with SECORE International, a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring damaged reefs in Guam and Palau. Our coral experts have traveled to these areas to help rebuild reefs and to learn techniques they can use to culture corals here at the Aquarium.

SEA TURTLE RESCUE PROGRAM

The Aquarium’s veterinary staff has rehabilitated rescued sea turtles for nearly two decades, often performing surgeries to treat injuries. Once deemed healthy, these sea turtles are released in nearby ocean waters.

Green Sea Turtle
Chelonia mydas

Green sea turtles can grow up to 5 feet long and weigh up to 700 pounds. They live in tropical and subtropical waters around the world. These endangered animals go on long migrations between their feeding areas and nesting grounds.

What do green sea turtles eat?

Find the answer at the exhibit.
THREATS TO CORAL REEFS

Climate change is the biggest threat to coral reefs. Rising ocean temperatures can cause corals to bleach and die. If temperatures return to normal in time, corals can recover.

Additional Threats:

- Overfishing and destructive fishing are among the biggest threats to coral reefs.
- Development on the coast can cause sediment to run into the ocean, covering coral reefs.
- Fertilizer that runs into the ocean from land can harm corals by causing an algae bloom.
- Oil spills are harmful to coral reefs, and drilling increases the risk of a spill.
- Plastic waste can damage corals and make them sick.
- Some sunscreen and personal care products contain ingredients that are harmful to corals.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Reducing emissions that cause climate change is the most important way we can help coral reefs. Here are some additional steps you can take.

Carbon footprint
Reduce your carbon footprint and learn about climate change. Walk, bike, carpool, or use public transit. Compost your food waste. Make your home energy efficient.

Avoid single-use plastic
If you can, reduce your use of single-use plastic products and packaging.

Purchasing power
Make sure the sunscreen and other products you use are reef safe. Avoid oxybenzone, octinoxate, octocrylene, 4-MBC, benzophenone-3, methoxycinnamate, and butylparaben. Avoid purchasing corals for jewelry or curios to preserve reefs.

Safe travels
Check that tour operators you use on vacations practice ocean stewardship.
OUR MISSION
The Aquarium of the Pacific is a non-profit 501(c)3 institution with a mission to instill a sense of wonder, respect, and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants, and ecosystems. We rely heavily on the generous donations of individuals and organizations.

OUR VISION
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 people).

MEMBERSHIP
Apply the cost of your admission to a membership and enjoy the Aquarium in the best way possible—as a member! Members receive unlimited free admission for twelve months in addition to exclusive access, special discounts, and so much more. Beyond the valuable benefits, your membership support also helps protect the ocean and its inhabitants.

EDUCATION
The Aquarium of the Pacific hosts a variety of engaging programs and events for both adults and children.

VOLUNTEER
Do you want to make a difference? The Aquarium depends on volunteers to help us achieve our mission of ocean education and conservation.

GIFT STORES
Be sure to stop by our gift stores for a unique selection of gifts, toys, books, educational items, housewares, clothing, and art.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL
You can adopt an animal to help support the care of our Aquarium family. In return, you receive an adoption certificate, animal updates, and much more.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Host your wedding, family reunion picnic, corporate party, or other special event at the Aquarium.

SEAFOOD FOR THE FUTURE
Learn about sustainable seafood. Visit seafoodforthefuture.org for more information.

During your visit, you may be filmed, videotaped, or photographed by an Aquarium of the Pacific employee, volunteer, or contract service professional. Your admission to our facility serves as permission for use of your image by the Aquarium of the Pacific and its constituents. The commercial use of photographs, video, and film you may have taken during your visit is strictly prohibited without the full written consent of the Aquarium of the Pacific.