

Monterey Bay Aquarium Overview – 2011

MISSION:	To inspire conservation of the oceans
GRAND OPENING:	October 20, 1984
LOCATION:	886 Cannery Row, Monterey, California
HOURS:	The aquarium is open daily, except Christmas Day. Hours of operation vary by season. Visit www.montereybayaquarium.org or call (831) 648-4800 for daily schedules.
ADMISSION RATES:	\$29.95 Adult (18 and over) \$27.95 Senior (65 and over) \$27.95 Student (13-17, or with college I.D.) \$19.95 Child (3-12) \$19.95 Disabled Group rates available for 20 or more (by reservation; 1-866-963-9645)
INFORMATION:	(831) 648-4800; www.montereybayaquarium.org
ADVANCE TICKETS/ RESERVATION CENTER:	1-800-756-3737 (toll free) or online at www.montereybayaquarium.org
OPERATING BASIS:	Private non-profit, self-supporting; no public funding; annual budget \$55 million
CAPITAL COST:	Nearshore galleries: \$55 million (opened October 1984) Outer Bay galleries: \$57 million (opened March 1996; closed for renovation, will reopen July 2011) New entry, ticket lobby and skywalk: \$10 million (opened May 2004) Ocean's Edge galleries (updated Nearshore galleries): \$11 million (opened May 2005) Splash Zone: Ocean Homes (renovated Splash Zone galleries): \$4 million (opened March 17, 2008) The Open Sea galleries: \$19 million (opens July 2, 2011)
CURRENT SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS:	“Hot Pink Flamingos: Stories of Hope in a Changing Sea” (Opened March 29, 2010) – Through the stories of amazing animals—including tropical wading birds, green sea turtles, colorful coral reef creatures and playful Magellanic penguins—visitors gain a new perspective on global climate change. Seven galleries weave together stories about how climate change is affecting ocean animals with hopeful tales of the many ways people and communities across the globe are fighting climate change and making a difference.

“The Secret Lives of Seahorses” (Opened April 6, 2009) – Showcases many beautiful species of seahorse and their kin. Galleries focus on the seahorse family, camouflage techniques, mating rituals and unique male pregnancy. Visitors will uncover some of the “secrets” of seahorses, and also learn how to help protect these amazing animals and their habitats in the wild.

GALLERIES AND MAJOR EXHIBITS:

Nearly 200 galleries and exhibits devoted to the diverse habitats of Monterey Bay. The four largest exhibits are the Outer Bay (1 million gallons); the Kelp Forest (335,000 gallons); Monterey Bay Habitats (326,000 gallons); and Sea Otters along the Rocky Coast (55,000 gallons). One of the world’s largest jellyfish galleries.

LIVE EXHIBITS:

More than 35,000 animals and plants representing over 550 species of fishes, invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, birds and plants found in Monterey Bay and other marine habitats worldwide.

FEEDING SHOWS:

Sea Otters at 10:30, 1:30 and 3:30 daily
Blackfooted Penguins at 10:30 and 3:00 daily
Kelp Forest dive show at 11:30 and 4:00 daily
Open Sea at 11:00 daily (Beginning July 2011)

DIMENSIONS:

Site: 3.3 acres
Exhibits and other public areas: 175,064 sq. ft. (excludes decks)
Ocean-view decks: 25,500 sq. ft.
Behind-the-scenes: 125,300 sq. ft.
Total aquarium square footage: 322,000 sq. ft.

ATTENDANCE:

Grand opening year: 2.37 million
Outer Bay grand opening year (1996): 2.41 million
Total in 2010: 1.7 million
Annual average: 1.8 million
Total through 2010: 48 million

STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION:

Approximately 425 full and part-time staff; over 1,000 volunteers.

DISABLED ACCESS:

All exhibits and aquarium facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. Assisted listening devices are available for the deaf and hard of hearing; most exhibit videos are captioned; wheelchairs are available free for use during a visit. Ask for details at the Information Desk.

VISITOR INFORMATION: Free visitor maps are available at the Information Desk.

ON THE WEB:

Information about all permanent and special exhibits, events and promotions, as well as an online pressroom with full press kits and photo & video libraries can be found online at www.montereybayaquarium.org.