



**Birch Aquarium at Scripps**  
*Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego*

- Mission:** To provide ocean science education, to interpret Scripps research, and to promote ocean conservation.
- Location:** 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla, Calif.
- Hours:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily  
 Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s days
- Admission Rate:** \$11 Adults 18+  
 \$9 Seniors 60+  
 \$8 College students with I.D.  
 \$7.50 Youth (3-17)  
 \$7.50 UC San Diego staff, students with I.D.  
 Free Children 2 & under  
 Free Members  
 Group rates (by reservation: 858-534-6691)
- Information:** 858-534-FISH, aquariuminfo@ucsd.edu, <http://aquarium.ucsd.edu>
- Current Exhibits:** *Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge* – Explores the scientific facts behind climate change and global warming, highlighting Scripps’ half century of climate research.
- Art of Deception (through Sept. 20, 2009)* – Demonstrates the remarkable ability of marine creatures to hide in plain sight using camouflage. Features leafy sea dragons, sea horses, frogs, fish, stingrays and crabs.
- Wonders of Water* – Exhibits the forces behind of erosion, water flow and ocean currents through interactive stations that allow visitors to create rapids, canals, dams and islands.
- Major Exhibits:** *Hall of Fishes* – Features more than 60 tanks of Pacific fishes and invertebrates from the cold waters of the Pacific Northwest to the tropical waters of Mexico and the Caribbean. The largest habitat is a 70,000-gallon kelp forest.
- Shark Reef* – 13,000-gallon tank devoted to shark species that inhabit tropical reef habitats, including whitetip and blacktip reef sharks and wobbegongs. Interpretive panels on shark biology and conservation accompany the reef.
- Tide Pool Plaza*—Features three living tide pools where visitors can touch and learn about inhabitants with docents. Windows in the habitats provide up-close views of starfish, hermit crabs, sea cucumbers, lobsters and other animals local to San Diego’s tide pools. Pools overlook La Jolla and the Pacific Ocean.
- Live Exhibits:** More than 5,000 specimens representing more than 380 species of fishes and invertebrates.

- Feeding:** **Kelp Forest Dive Show:**  
12:30 Tuesday, Thursday; 2 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 Sunday  
**Shark Tank:**  
10:30 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday  
**NW Coast Gallery:**  
10:30 Wednesday  
**Southern California Gallery:**  
10:30 Wednesday  
**Tide Pool:**  
2:00 Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
**Tropical Reefs:**  
11:00 Wednesday
- Refreshments:** *Splash! Café* offers an array of gourmet delights next to the life-sized gray whale mother and calf fountain. Serves hot and cold beverages, sandwiches, snacks and more in an outdoor atmosphere with plenty of seating and umbrellas for shade. Open 9-4 weekdays, 9-5 weekends. Cash only.
- Souvenirs:** The aquarium's book and gift shop carries a wide selection of informative field guides, books about the ocean and near-shore environments, marine-themed toys, clothing, jewelry, fine art and more. Open 9:30-5 daily. Merchandise also online at <http://bookstore.ucsd.edu/aquarium/merchant.cgi>
- Size:** Total Aquarium: 64,157 sq. feet  
Interior: 32,657 sq. feet  
Tide Pool: 4,500 sq. feet  
Outside Patios: 27,000 sq. feet
- Operating Basis:** Non-profit, self-supporting
- Accreditation:** Association of Zoos & Aquariums
- Grand Opening:** Sept. 16, 1992
- Cost:** \$14 million (land donated by UC San Diego)
- Attendance:** 400,000 + annually
- Student Attendance:** 77,000+ annually
- Staff:** 70 employees, 300+ volunteers
- Access:** All exhibits and facilities are accessible to visitors with disabilities.
- Recognitions:**
- Winter 2008: Executive Director Nigella Hillgarth is recognized as a 2009 Metro Mover to Watch by San Diego Metropolitan Magazine.
  - Fall 2008: San Diegans voted Birch Aquarium at Scripps as a Top 3 Local Museum in the annual 10News.com A-List poll.
  - Spring 2008: Birch Aquarium at Scripps is named San Diego's Best Children's Activity Center or Museum in Ranch & Coast magazine's third-annual "Readers' Choice: Best of 2008" survey
  - Fall 2007: Feeling the Heat: The Climate Challenge exhibition is named the Silver winner in museum design for the 2007 Event Design Awards. Sponsored by Connecticut-based Event Design Magazine, the annual awards recognize the best designs worldwide across events, exhibits and environments.