



## FACT SHEET: BALTIMORE VENUE

501 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

410-576-3800

<http://www.aqua.org>

The National Aquarium is located in the heart of the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. Situated on two city piers with the Chesapeake Bay on either side, the Aquarium features three pavilions and a living collection that includes more than 20,000 animals from more than 700 species of fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals in award-winning habitats.

The National Aquarium is Maryland's largest paid tourist attraction. A study by the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development determined that the Aquarium annually generates nearly \$220 million in revenues, 2,000 jobs, and \$6.8 million in State and local taxes.

### **Quick facts**

Total size: 250,000 square feet

Water capacity: More than 2.4 million gallons

Staff: More than 400 paid staff and 900+ trained volunteers

Attendance: More than 1.3 million visitors annually

### **Current exhibits and attractions**

Amazon River Forest

Atlantic Coral Reef

Atlantic to Pacific

Australia: Wild Extremes

Blacktip Reef

Dolphin Discovery

Jellies Invasion

Living Seashore

Maryland Experience

Shark Alley

Surviving Adaptation

Tropical Rainforest

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Waterfront Park

4-D Immersion Theater

For in-depth information about each exhibit: <http://www.aqua.org/explore/baltimore/exhibits-experiences>.

### **General admission pricing**

Adults \$39.95

Seniors (65+) \$34.95

Children (3-11) \$24.95

Children under age 3 are free

Admission includes access to all exhibits. 4-D Immersion films can be added for \$5 per person.

### **Hours**

Hours vary by season; current hours are posted on [aqua.org](http://www.aqua.org).

## **History**

In Baltimore during the 1970s, then-Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer conceived and championed the idea of an aquarium as a vital component of Baltimore's overall Inner Harbor redevelopment scheme. In 1976, Baltimore City residents supported the National Aquarium, Baltimore, by voting for it on a bond referendum. Groundbreaking for the facility took place on August 8, 1978. In 1979, the new aquarium was recognized by the United States Congress, which granted the facility "national" status. The National Aquarium in Baltimore opened to the public on August 8, 1981.

## **Architecture**

The Aquarium's original building was designed by Peter Chermayeff of Cambridge Seven Associates in Boston, Massachusetts. It measures 115,000 square feet. The Pier 4 Pavilion is a 94,000-square-foot building designed by Grieves Associates of Baltimore, which opened to the public in December 1990. The 65,400-square-foot Glass Pavilion, which opened in December 2005, was also designed by Peter Chermayeff. It features the award-winning *Australia: Wild Extremes* exhibit, a 6,650-square-foot cafe, a 5,000-square-foot gift shop, and a remarkable 35-foot waterfall.

*Updated June 2016*