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.
**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.

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