

**Media:** For more information, contact SeaWorld Public Relations at (619) 226-3929.

**SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO**

**2017 FACT SHEET**

**OVERVIEW:** SeaWorld® San Diego is one of the most popular marine parks in the world and is a global leader in marine animal care and welfare, education, conservation, research and rescue. Through exciting and educational attractions, shows and exhibits, SeaWorld creates fun and meaningful experiences— experiences that matter—where guests can ***explore***, become ***inspired*** to care about animals and wild wonders of the world and to ***act*** to help protect them. SeaWorld San Diego, which opened in March of 1964, is one of 12 parks operated by SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment®.

**DESCRIPTION:** Spread across 190 acres on beautiful Mission Bay Park, SeaWorld San Diego is known for spectacular animal shows, interactive attractions, aquariums, rides, lush landscaping and education programs for all ages. In 2017, SeaWorld will roll out the biggest new attractions lineup in the park’s 53-year history (see page two).

Nearby SeaWorld in Chula Vista is [**Aquatica SeaWorld’s Waterpark**](https://aquaticabyseaworld.com/en/sandiego)®, a lushly landscaped waterpark with up-close animal experiences, high-speed thrills and the amenities of a beachside resort. Dates for Aquatica’s fifth season are daily May 26***–***Aug. 27; select dates Aug. 31***–***Oct. 8.

**LOCATION:** Off I-5 on SeaWorld Drive on Mission Bay, 10 minutes north of downtown San Diego, the San Diego International Airport and Amtrak’s downtown station.

**PARK HOURS:** Opening and closing times vary by season. Hours are extended during seasonal periods, such as summer and winter holidays. Call (619) 222-4SEA or visit [***www.SeaWorldSanDiego.com***](http://www.SeaWorldSanDiego.com).

**ADMISSION:** $93, ages 10 and older; $87, ages 3–9; free, under 3. Discounts available for groups and AAA members. Waves of Honor program provides complimentary admission for military and family members once a year ([***www.WavesofHonor.com***](http://www.WavesofHonor.com)***)***. Annual Pass Memberships, the Fun Card and other ticket products make SeaWorld an even better value.Parking: $17 for cars, motorcycles and disabled; $22 to $40 for Up-Close; $30 to $50 for VIP; $40 for RVs and campers.

**INFORMATION:** For general park information: (619) 222-4SEA or [***www.SeaWorldSanDiego.com***](http://www.SeaWorldSanDiego.com). For information about marine animals, visit [***www.SeaWorld.org***](http://www.SeaWorld.org).

**SERVICES:** Strollers, wheelchairs, lockers and pet kennels available for rental. Diaper-changing stations, nursing rooms, first aid, automated teller machines, taxi and bus parking information all found on site. Charging station for electric vehicles available for park guests in parking lot; electronic device charging stations located in the park. SeaWorld provides special parking, restrooms, telephones and access to shows, attractions and meal facilities for guests with disabilities. Show scripts available at Guest Services and at show stadiums. Access brochures are available at Guest Services. For more information about services for guests with disabilities, call (619) 222-4SEA or visit [***www.SeaWorldSanDiego.com***](http://www.SeaWorldSanDiego.com).

**BIGGEST NEW ATTRACTIONS ROLL-OUT**

**IN SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO’S HISTORY!**

What’s in store for 2017:

**Ocean Explorer**

The launch of Ocean Explorer™ will create an expedition of wonder across the seven seas. Opening this summer, this extraordinary new attraction will combine multiple aquariums, exciting rides and digital technologies designed to engage park guests in an experience centered on exploration and adventure. On the attraction’s signature ride called Submarine Quest, guests will be adventurers on a global expedition of scientific exploration, travelling aboard submarines to see Ocean Explorer’s remarkable undersea animals. Embarking on these mini submarines, visitors will become researchers on a mission to collect data and learn how they can help protect animals. This three-minute experience will include an onboard digital navigation dashboard, as well as a few other surprises along the journey, enhancing the riders’ understanding of our fragile ocean ecosystem. The heart and destination of Ocean Explorer will be a series of undersea research bases housing specially-designed aquariums and interactive displays that showcase unique and elusive ocean animals like giant octopuses and dozens of moray eels, as well as Japanese spider crabs and spiny king crabs. Both crab species will be new to SeaWorld San Diego. The Ocean Explorer realm will feature five new family-friendly rides in total, including an exhilarating wave swing ride where guests will fly through thousands of real bubbles in chairs suspended from the tentacles of a giant jelly.

**Orca Encounter**

This summer, SeaWorld San Diego will debut the all-new, inspiring *Orca Encounter™*. Based on killer whale behavior in the wild—how they move, hunt and navigate, what they eat, and even how they communicate—this new encounter will be a live documentary-style presentation helping park guests gain a deeper appreciation and respect for the orcas, and empowering them to preserve the future of these majestic animals. Each presentation or encounter will underscore the vital connection we all share as protectors of the planet and how we each play a key role in the future health and vitality of the wildlife and wild places. A new Pacific Northwest-themed backdrop at SeaWorld’s main orca pool will reflect the natural world of killer whales. To further promote the understanding of whale behaviors in the wild, a large infinity video screen willaugment the backdrop displaying imagery of orcas in the wild as well as orca graphics and information about the whales.

**Electric Ocean**

As the sun sets, Electric Ocean™ will light up SeaWorld with an ocean of brilliance and vibrant energy that will transform the park into an underwater world of colorful luminescence. This new, nighttime summer spectacular will immerse guests in a glowing sea of wonder with bioluminescent-like lighting, a dance club and pathway entertainment. Electric Ocean kicks off June 17 and runs on select dates through Sept. 4.

**SEASONAL EVENTS/FESTIVALS**

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY**—[**Lunar New Year at SeaWorld**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/events/lunar-new-year)honors thetradition of wishing good fortune and happiness to family and friends. The park’s Lunar New Year Festival area features Asian-inspired culinary offerings and a stage showcasing cultural performances, such as *taiko* drummers, lion dancers and fan dancers. The Chinese Acrobats of Hebei perform 25-minute acrobatic shows at Mission Bay Theater. Dates are Jan. 28***–***29; Feb. 4***–***5; Feb. 11***–***13 and Feb. 18***–***20.

**MARCH—**[**SeaWorld’s Magic Weekends**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/events/magic-weekends?from=Top_Nav)will be back for a third year featuring internationally headlining magicians bringing their mystical and astounding shows to the park’s Mission Bay Theater, Saturdays and Sundays in March.

**APRIL**—Foodies and craft beer aficionados are going to love the **SeaWorld Seven Seas Craft Beer & Food Festival**, featuring more than 100 craft beer selections, over a dozen wine choices and more than 50 food samples representing the Caribbean, Europe, the Pacific Islands, Asia and more. Seven Seas takes place Saturdays and Sundays in April.

**SUMMER*—***SeaWorld has never been more colorful! During Electric Ocean™, the ocean comes to life with bioluminescent lighting, music and pathway entertainment, immersing guests in a glowing sea of wonder.

**FOURTH OF JULY*—***SeaWorld will present a 20-minute fireworks show synchronized to patriotic music on the Fourth of July. For park hours and fireworks schedule, check the park’s [website](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/animals/report-stranded-animals?from=Top_Nav).

**FALL*—***During[**SeaWorld’s Halloween Spooktacular**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/events/halloween-spooktacular)®,kids can show up in costume and enjoy a Halloween-themed sea lion and otter show, *Clyde & Seamore’s Big Halloween Bash*, plus colorful costume characters and trick-or-treating among a sea-inspired atmosphere. Halloween Spooktacular takes place weekends Sept. 23–Oct. 29.

**WINTER*—***[***SeaWorld’s Christmas Celebration***](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/christmas)® is back with Santa, sea lions and snow! Guests can grab hot cocoa and experience Santa’s Christmas Village, the return of Rudolph’s Christmastown and fun holiday-themed shows, including *Dolphin Island Christmas* and the hilarious sea lion and otter show, *Clyde & Seamore's Christmas Special.* New for 2017 is *O Wondrous Night*, which tells the greatest story never told, with more than 30 carols, based upon the Christmas Story and told through the eyes of a variety of live animals. Families also can enjoy the nightly lighting of the 40-foot animated tree and more, all under the glow of SeaWorld’s 320-foot Skytower Christmas Tree of Lights. SeaWorld’s Christmas Celebration runs Nov. 18, 2017–Jan. 1, 2018. Snow Hill, a holiday-themed area with sled lanes for smaller children, will be open on select dates.

**SEAWORLD SHOWS**

[**Dolphin Days**](http://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/shows/dolphin-days/?from=Top_Nav)

*Dolphin Days* combines high-energy animal behaviors with a close-up look at SeaWorld’s dolphins and pilot whales and the relationship they have with their trainers. This show also includes audience participation, allowing guests to develop an even more personal connection with some of SeaWorld’s most amazing animal ambassadors.

**Killer Whale Presentation**

While development and construction are under way for the new *Orca Encounter™* (slated to debut summer 2017), an interim *Killer Whale Presentation* is being offered to guests. During these intimate presentations, which take place daily around the orca underwater viewing area pool, the trainers introduce some of the killer whales, teaching audiences about the whales’ physiology and anatomy, hearing and vocalization, and information about some of the research projects the whales are a part of.

[**Sea Lions LIVE**](http://seaworldparks.com/seaworld-sandiego/Attractions/Shows/Sea-Lions-LIVE)

*Sea Lions LIVE®*, SeaWorld’s sketch comedy show, stars the park’s prank-loving pinnipeds Clyde® and Seamore® and the always-adorable O.P. Otter® who poke fun at popular TV shows with their own renditions, including “Dancing with the Pinnipeds” (a parody of “Dancing with the Stars”) and “SLSI” (“Sea Lion Scene Investigation”).

[**Pets Rule!**](http://seaworldparks.com/seaworld-sandiego/Attractions/Shows/Pets-Rule)

In thiszany show, clever canines, curious cats, beautiful birds and unpredictable pigs take charge and show humans who’s the boss. *Pets Rule!* ® is one of the largest shows in the country featuring primarily shelter-adopted animals. The stars of this show even have some exotic cast mates, including emus and kangaroos!

**ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS AND EXPERIENCES**

**Aquariums** at SeaWorld® feature nearly 13,000 fishes and invertebrates representing more than 500 species found around the globe, from the Great Barrier Reef off Australia and the Amazon River in Brazil to the coast of Southern California. Aquarium de la Mer features giant Pacific octopus, Caribbean octopus, two-spot octopus, cuttlefish and nautilus. Aquaria: World of Fishes showcases one of the largest schools of piranhas on exhibit, as well as prehistoric alligator gar, massive fruit-eating pacus, leopard sharks and colorful reef fish.

During the[**Beluga Interaction Program**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exclusive-park-experiences/beluga-interaction-program?from=Top_Nav) at SeaWorld®, guests slip into wet suits and set foot in the 55-degree water to touch, feed and give training signals to beluga whales. Program fee is $170 plus park admission and includes wet suits, booties, lockers, changing facilities and showers. Participants must be at least 10 years old and 48 inches tall. Advance registration required.

[**Dine With Shamu**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/dine-and-shop/dining/dine-with-shamu?from=Top_Nav)**®**is more than just a dining experience—it’s exclusive, intimate and unforgettable. While enjoying a delicious buffet on a private poolside patio, guests meet trainers and see killer whales in a whole new light. The cost, not including tax, gratuity and park admission, is $40 for ages 10 and older ($20 for ages 3–9). Breakfast With Shamu also is offered on select days for $26 for ages 10 and older ($16 for ages 3–9). Advance registration required.

The [**Dolphin Encounter**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exclusive-park-experiences/dolphin-encounter?from=Top_Nav) at Dolphin Point is for guests who want a more personal experience with bottlenose dolphins without getting in the water. During this 10-minute, trainer-guided experience, guests are guaranteed to touch, feed and help train bottlenose dolphins, while also learning about their natural history, conservation and training. Cost is $65 plus park admission. Advance registration required.

The [**Dolphin Interaction Program**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exclusive-park-experiences/dolphin-interaction-program?from=Top_Nav) was created for guests looking for a more exclusive, in-water interaction with these beautiful animals. After donning a wet suit and booties, participants take a dip in the dolphins’ habitat where they get to feed, touch and even cue the animals for trained behaviors. The program fee is $215 plus park admission and includes wet suit, lockers, changing facilities and showers. Participants must be at least 10 years old and 48 inches tall. Advance registration required.

At[**Dolphin Point**](http://seaworldparks.com/seaworld-sandiego/Attractions/Exhibits/Dolphin-Point), guests can interact with bottlenose dolphins throughout the day during trainer-led sessions called “dolphin connections.” During dolphin connections, trainers get in the water and play, swim and splash with the dolphins. Guests around the ledge of the pool can get in on the fun and become part of the action while learning about these amazing marine mammals and SeaWorld's training techniques. Guests may even have the opportunity to rub down, feed, watch a medical checkup or give the dolphins training signals just like a SeaWorld® dolphin trainer. The daily experience is free with park admission and the schedule is listed on the park map.

With [**Explorer’s Reef™**,](http://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exhibits/explorers-reef/?from=Top_Nav) SeaWorld® has reinvented the way guests approach and enter the park. Explorer’s Reef immediately transports guests into the world of the sea as they pass beneath an iconic and stunning wave structure and get immersed in a coral reef that gives them the feeling of walking on the bottom of the ocean. In this underwater oasis, they have their first chance to experience the beauty and wonder of incredible marine animals through up-close interactions with shark pups, rays, horseshoe crabs and cleaner fish in four state-of-the-art freshwater and saltwater touch pools. A beach-themed, concierge-style ticketing area provides a single location to purchase admission and sign up for tours, animal interactions and dining experiences.

[**Guided Tours**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/book-online/extras/all-extras?from=Top_Nav) offer guests an exclusive behind-the-scenes view of SeaWorld® and the chance to learn fascinating facts about the animals that most people don’t know. Participants get up close and personal with amazing bottlenose dolphins, or interact with other incredible animals such as threatened or endangered sea turtles or penguins. Guests may even discover unique creatures in the park’s behind-the-scenes Aquarium Lab. Advance registration required.

[**Manta**](http://seaworldparks.com/seaworld-sandiego/Manta)**®**, SeaWorld’s mega attraction, features a 100,000-gallon, marine-life habitat with California bat rays that guests can touch and feed. Manta also includes a double-launch roller coaster with a 54-foot drop and twists and turns that make riders feel like they’re soaring and diving like a giant manta ray.

**Otter Outlook** features a display of [California sea otters](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/animals/know-our-stars/california-sea-otters) taken in by SeaWorld® through the Sea Otter Research and Conservation program at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. At specified times each day, keepers treat guests to an otter presentation during which they educate guests about the species and demonstrate enrichment activities for the otters*.* The California sea otter is listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Threats include oil spills, entanglement in fishing nets and diseases.

The [**Penguin Encounter**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exhibits/penguin-encounter?from=Top_Nav)**®** features nearly 400 penguins representing five Antarctic and sub-Antarctic species (gentoo, Adélie, macaroni, king and emperor). Guests get a close-up look at these delightful animals as they swim and waddle in the 25-degree, snow-filled habitat. SeaWorld® San Diego has one of the world’s only successful emperor penguin breeding colonies outside the Antarctic, with 21 successful hatchings since 1980. The Penguin Encounter also is home to nearly 90 puffins and murres, and to warm-weather Magellanic penguins, native to South America, who live in a habitat outside the Encounter.

[**Shark Encounter**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exhibits/shark-encounter?from=Top_Nav)**®** takes SeaWorld® guests under water with sharks and tropical fish. The 280,000-gallon attraction features a 57-foot acrylic tube running the length of the sharks’ habitat. Sand tiger, bonnethead, blacktip and whitetip reef sharks are among the species living in this popular attraction.

[**Turtle Reef**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exhibits/turtle-reef?from=Top_Nav)**™** featuresa 280,000-gallon, coral reef-themed aquarium with dozens of threatened loggerhead, hawksbill and green sea turtles. Turtle Reefalso features thousands of tropical fish; an interactive game called Race for the Beach; a touch-screen map, Turtlelink, where guests can learn about sea turtle tracking and SeaWorld’s rescue efforts; and a ride called Riptide Rescue.

[**Wild Arctic**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exhibits/wild-arctic)**®** features a journey to a realistic Arctic research station in the frozen North aboard a simulated jet helicopter, followed by encounters with beluga whales, polar bears, seals and walruses.

**CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION**

[**Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (HSWRI)**](http://hswri.org/) is a non-profit research organization committed to conserving and renewing marine life to ensure a healthier planet. HSWRI provides innovative and objective scientific solutions to challenges facing ocean health in our rapidly changing world. While HSWRI is an independent research organization, it has partnered with SeaWorld® for over 50 years, sharing a fundamental appreciation and respect for animals as well as a commitment to ocean health and marine animal rescue. HSWRI’s research takes its scientists to ocean basins and coastlines in the United States and around the world, but some of their most important work has been done at the SeaWorld parks. Access to SeaWorld’s extensive marine zoological collection and superb facilities provides the Institute with unparalleled opportunities to advance its public-trust mission “*to return to the sea some measure of the benefits derived from it*.” To learn more about HSWRI and see how you can help, visit [***www.helpseachange.org***](http://www.helpseachange.org)

 Through the [**SeaWorld Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Program**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/animals/animal-rescue?from=Top_Nav), SeaWorld’s animal care specialists have rescued, treated, rehabilitated and returned thousands of animals that were ill, injured or stranded. On average, 65 to 70 percent of the animals rescued annually are rehabilitated and returned to the wild. Since 1965, SeaWorld® San Diego has rescued more than 17,000 animals, with sea lions, seals and marine birds comprising the vast majority of those animals rescued. The park’s Rescue Team also routinely comes to the aid of dolphins, whales and sea turtles. In 2016, SeaWorld San Diego’s Rescue Team rescued 403 California sea lions, 24 harbor seals, 16 northern elephant seals, three common dolphins, two Guadalupe fur seals and one humpback whale, which the team successfully disentangled. They also cared for seven sea turtles (the most in a single season) and 534 birds representing 61 species including grebes, pelicans, gulls and herons. The park’s goal is to return rescued, nursed-to-health animals to the wild for a second chance at life. Park guests can learn more about SeaWorld’s rescue program by visiting the Rescue Plaza near Shamu Stadium, where two video screens play footage of marine mammals, seabirds and turtles that were rescued by SeaWorld. They also can tune in to the Emmy-winning show “Sea Rescue” on Saturdays on ABC. Members of the public who see a marine animal that appears ill or abandoned can call SeaWorld’s Rescue Hotline at (800) 541-SEAL or report the stranding on the park’s [website](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/animals/report-stranded-animals?from=Top_Nav).

         The[**SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund**](http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/) is a registered, non-profit foundation that has granted $14 million in support of projects around the world. In addition to direct support of environmental, research and conservation projects, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment® provides financial support and human resources to the Fund. It also offers an outlet for visitors to the parks, as well as the general public, to help protect wildlife. The Fund commits 100 percent of donations to on-the-ground wildlife conservation.

[**SeaWorld Camps**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/educational-programs?from=Top_Nav) offer the experience of a lifetime, with activities ranging from touching and feeding marine animals, to kayaking and snorkeling on Mission Bay. Resident Camp, for grades five through nine, is a five-night adventure where campers discover firsthand how to care for SeaWorld’s animals. During Career Camp, 10th through 12th graders find out what it’s like to have a career taking care of animals. Day Camp is for kindergarteners through six graders who can learn about the park’s animals, create crafts and play games. One-night Sleepovers and multiple-night Group Camps are also available. For more information, call (619) 222-4SEA.

**SeaWorld’s Oiled Wildlife Care Center** is an example of a successful private and public partnership dedicated to environmental stewardship. This facility employs lessons learned from past oil spills and improvements in wildlife rescue, care and rehabilitation. When not being used for oil spill response, the 8,000-square-foot complex houses ill or injured animals being cared for in SeaWorld’s Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Program.

**RIDES\***

[**Bayside Skyride**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/bayside-skyride)and **Skytower** aretwo landmark SeaWorld® rides. The Bayside Skyride offers a scenic ride above the bay; the Skytower takes passengers high above SeaWorld for a panoramic view of Mission Bay, the Pacific Ocean, downtown San Diego and beyond.

[**Journey to Atlantis**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/journey-to-atlantis?from=Top_Nav)**®** is a wet and wild water coaster experience on eight-passenger Greek fishing boats, featuring a 60-foot plunge. The six-minute adventure tells the tale of Atlantis through a simulated flood, projected lights, fog and water cannons.

[**Manta**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/manta)**®** is SeaWorld’s mega-attraction, featuring a double-launch roller coaster with a 54-foot drop and twists and turns that make riders feel like they’re soaring and diving like a giant manta ray. Manta also includes a 100,000-gallon, marine-life habitat with California bat rays that guests can touch and feed.

[**Riptide Rescue**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/riptide-rescue), an exciting ride that spins passengers in boats on a rescue mission of their own, is part of SeaWorld’s Turtle Reef™, which features a coral reef-themed aquarium with dozens of threatened sea turtles; thousands of tropical fish; a game called Race for the Beach; and a touch-screen map.

[**Sesame Street Bay of Play**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/exhibits/sesame-street-bay-of-play?from=Top_Nav)**®** ridesinclude [**Abby’s Sea Star Spin**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/abbys-sea-star-spin),a 36-passenger teacup-type ride that turns ’round and ’round as it twirls; [**Elmo’s Flying Fish**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/elmos-flying-fish), which gently soars up and down on a journey through an imaginary ocean; and [**Oscar’s Rocking Eel**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/oscars-rocking-eel), a ride that spins and slides from side to side.

[**Shipwreck Rapids**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/shipwreck-rapids)**®** takes passengers on an adventure through raging rapids, roaring waterfalls, past sunbathing sea turtles and a near collision with a ship’s propeller. At journey’s end, castaways can relax and satisfy their appetites at Shipwreck Reef Café®.

[**Wild Arctic**](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides/wild-arctic-ride)**®** takes guests on a journey to the frozen North where getting there is half the fun. Visitors board a simulated jet helicopter for an exhilarating ride with bumps, jumps and thrills (non-motion also available). Disembarking guests find a realistic Arctic research station that brings them face to face with beluga whales, polar bears, seals and walruses.

*\*Visit park* [*website*](https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/attractions/rides?from=Top_Nav) *for ride requirements.*

**—SeaWorld—**

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