


“Where science
meets *sophistication.*”



BIRCH 
AQUARIUM

UC San Diego
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

A scenic view of the ocean at sunset from a high vantage point, with a blue telescope in the foreground. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, and the ocean is visible in the distance. The telescope is a classic design with a blue body and a silver lens. The background shows a coastline with buildings and a beach.

“The ocean stirs the heart,
inspires imagination and brings
eternal joy to the soul.”

Located high on a bluff with dramatic ocean views, Birch Aquarium at Scripps is a unique and engaging venue for any event. Our one-of-a-kind facility includes more than 60 diverse marine habitats and features a two-story *Giant Kelp Forest*, where guests feel surrounded by the ocean world. Birch Aquarium is the public outreach center for the renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego, and invites your guests to dive into the cutting-edge research being done to understand and protect our ocean planet.

Let's *create* the Best. Day. Ever.

Your special event directly supports Birch Aquarium's mission. Not only will an event at Birch Aquarium create lasting memories, but it will also inspire ocean conservation by supporting exhibits, animal care, and education programs. Our experienced Special Events Team is here to help you create memorable events for conventions, corporate events, professional events, academic retreats, wedding receptions and ceremonies, social gatherings, and family celebrations. The venue is available for both exclusive after-hours events and for semi-private daytime functions.

Event Spaces

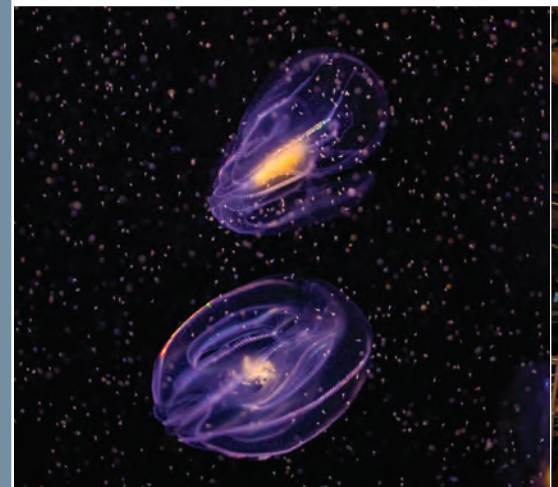
An exclusive rental of Birch Aquarium includes the following spaces:

FULL FACILITY

At more than 30,000 square feet, Birch Aquarium can accommodate up to 1,500 guests with multiple indoor/outdoor setup configurations available. Guests will be able to explore ocean habitats, get hands-on with Scripps Oceanography science, and enjoy some of the best ocean views in San Diego.

THE SHELIA MARIE DAVIS GALLERIA

Central and beautiful, Birch Aquarium's galleria features multi-story windows and stunning ocean views. At 4,200 square feet, this unique indoor space accommodates 400 people for a stand-up reception, 200 for a sit-down dinner, 160 for buffet-style service, and 375 for a theater-style event. This location offers easy access to all of Birch Aquarium's exhibits.



Beautiful spaces and breathtaking views combine to create a day *you'll never forget.*

PREUSS TIDE POOL PLAZA

Featuring the most spectacular views at Birch Aquarium, this 3,750 square foot open-air space includes panoramic ocean views and the aquarium's tide pool exhibits. Accessible from inside the Galleria, this split-level accessible space accommodates 500 people for a stand-up reception, 140 for a sit-down dinner, and 175 for a wedding ceremony. The views from Preuss Tide Pool Plaza are especially spectacular during sunset.

CAFÉ PAVILION

Located at the entrance of Birch Aquarium, this 10,000 square-foot open-air pavilion accommodates 1,000 people for a stand-up reception or 500 seated. It is a spacious area for a variety of events and features dramatic life-sized brass statues of breaching gray whales.

THE DIRECTOR'S DECK/DELACOUR CONFERENCE ROOM

Our spacious conference room is a single room with a whiteboard, 90" TV, internet, and A/V connections for you to utilize during your event. This room can accommodate up to 60 guests depending on the room configuration, and also has access to our Director's Deck, which provides stunning views of the Pacific Ocean and is a wonderful spot for breaks or lunch.

ENTRANCE COURTYARD

This 3,000-square-foot entirely open-air space is a great area to extend your party from the indoor Galleria. It accommodates 300 for a reception and 170 for a sit-down dinner.

BEYSTER FAMILY LITTLE BLUE PENGUINS

Birch Aquarium's newest exhibit, *Beyster Family Little Blue Penguins* — a 3,000-square-foot open-air courtyard enclosed on four sides — is surrounded by Little Blue Penguins swimming, waddling and nesting. This intimate space accommodates up to 100 people for a stand-up reception and a variety of activities.

ROBERT SMARGON EXHIBIT COURT

At 6,000 square feet, this open-air courtyard offers guests panoramic views of La Jolla Shores and immediate access to *Shark Shores*, which features local Leopard Sharks and rays. Smargon Court accommodates 550 people for a stand-up reception or 300 seated, and is also available for semi-private rentals during the aquarium's operating hours.

***All available spaces and guest numbers are subject to change based on Covid-19 guidelines.*



Policies and Procedures

EVENT HOURS

Exclusive venue rental of Birch Aquarium is available starting at 6 p.m. Robert Smargon Court and the Director's Deck/DeLeCaur Conference Room are also available for semi-private rentals during daytime hours. Set up is permitted during business hours with aquarium staff supervision. All events must end by 10 p.m. or extended hours may be available with additional fees. Other rules and restrictions related to setup and breakdown vary by event size/location.

SECURITY

Birch Aquarium requires event security for all facility rentals. The number of security guards will be based on the number of attendees for each event. The fee for security guard(s) will automatically be added to your invoice.

MAINTENANCE

Caterers and vendors are responsible for clean-up. In-house maintenance staff will be present to handle facility emergencies. Standard facility cleaning is included in the facility rental fees. If additional assistance is necessary, fees will apply for extra staffing.



PARKING

For exclusive evening events, Birch Aquarium provides up to 230 parking spaces, which are included in the rental fee. For daytime events, additional parking fees apply. Off-site parking options are available upon request with additional fees.

CATERING

Birch Aquarium has an exclusive catering collection. Clients must contract with one of our exclusive caterers. Birch Aquarium has food and beverage restrictions due to exhibits. Guests are allowed to tour the facility with their hors d'oeuvres and beverage in hand.

BAR SERVICE

Birch Aquarium works exclusively with the on-site bar service that holds the current liquor license issued by the State of California. Clients must contract for bar service if alcohol will be served during their event.

DECORATIONS

Decor may not be attached to any wall, floor, or ceiling without permission. Anything that was once a part of a marine habitat (such as shells, sea stars or corals) is not allowed as decoration. All decor must be approved prior to the event by the Special Events Team.





The event
you *imagine*,
brought to life.

RENTAL FEES

Please contact the Special Events Team for a customized quote and a site visit. Email aquariumevents@ucsd.edu or call (858) 822-5439.

STAFFING

The aquarium Special Events Team will be on-site throughout your event to assist with event logistics. The staff is not available to set up, tear down, move inventory, or assist contracted vendors during the event. Please work with your vendors to ensure ample staff is scheduled for your event.

SMOKING

Smoking is strictly prohibited at Birch Aquarium and all other UC San Diego properties. This includes the parking lot and all outdoor spaces.

SET UP/BREAKDOWN

All setup and breakdown of events must occur on the same day unless prior arrangements have been approved by the Special Events Team. The aquarium is not responsible for any materials, rentals, or decor left behind. Additional fees may apply for substantial mess or items left behind.

EQUIPMENT

All equipment vendors — including furniture and audiovisual — must provide a valid business license and liability insurance to the aquarium.

ACCESSIBILITY

The University of California is in compliance with the Section 503/504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability and have questions regarding accommodation to access these events, please call (858) 534-7563.

INSURANCE

The client and vendors all must provide a one-day certificate of insurance listing the Regents of the University of California as a certificate holder and a separate endorsement naming The Regents of the University of California as additionally insured.





GIANT KELP FOREST



“Simplicity is
the ultimate
sophistication.”



DIRECTOR'S DECK





Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN CAN I HOST MY EVENT?

Birch Aquarium at Scripps is available for morning, daytime and evening events.

ARE YOUR MORNING OR AFTERNOON RENTALS PRIVATE?

We offer semi-private to private events.

DO I HAVE TO RENT THE ENTIRE FACILITY, OR IS THERE AN OPTION TO RENT JUST PART OF IT IN THE EVENING?

During the aquarium's operating hours, which are typically 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Robert Smargon Court and the Director's Deck/DeLaCour Conference Room Conference Room are available for semi-private rentals. The rest of the facility is only available outside of operating hours and is exclusive.

WHEN CAN I SET UP?

For exclusive evening events, set up begins at 4:30 p.m. For all other events, the time varies based on your event time and location.

IS 6 P.M. TO 10 P.M. ENOUGH TIME FOR MY EVENT?

Yes, four hours is ample time for most events.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON DECORATION?

Yes, the following decor is not allowed: rice, birdseed, confetti, balloons, sand, shells, or marine life, including anything that was once living in the ocean. Man-made replicas of marine life are allowed. All decor must be approved 30 days in advance.

CAN WE EXTEND THE RENTAL PERIOD?

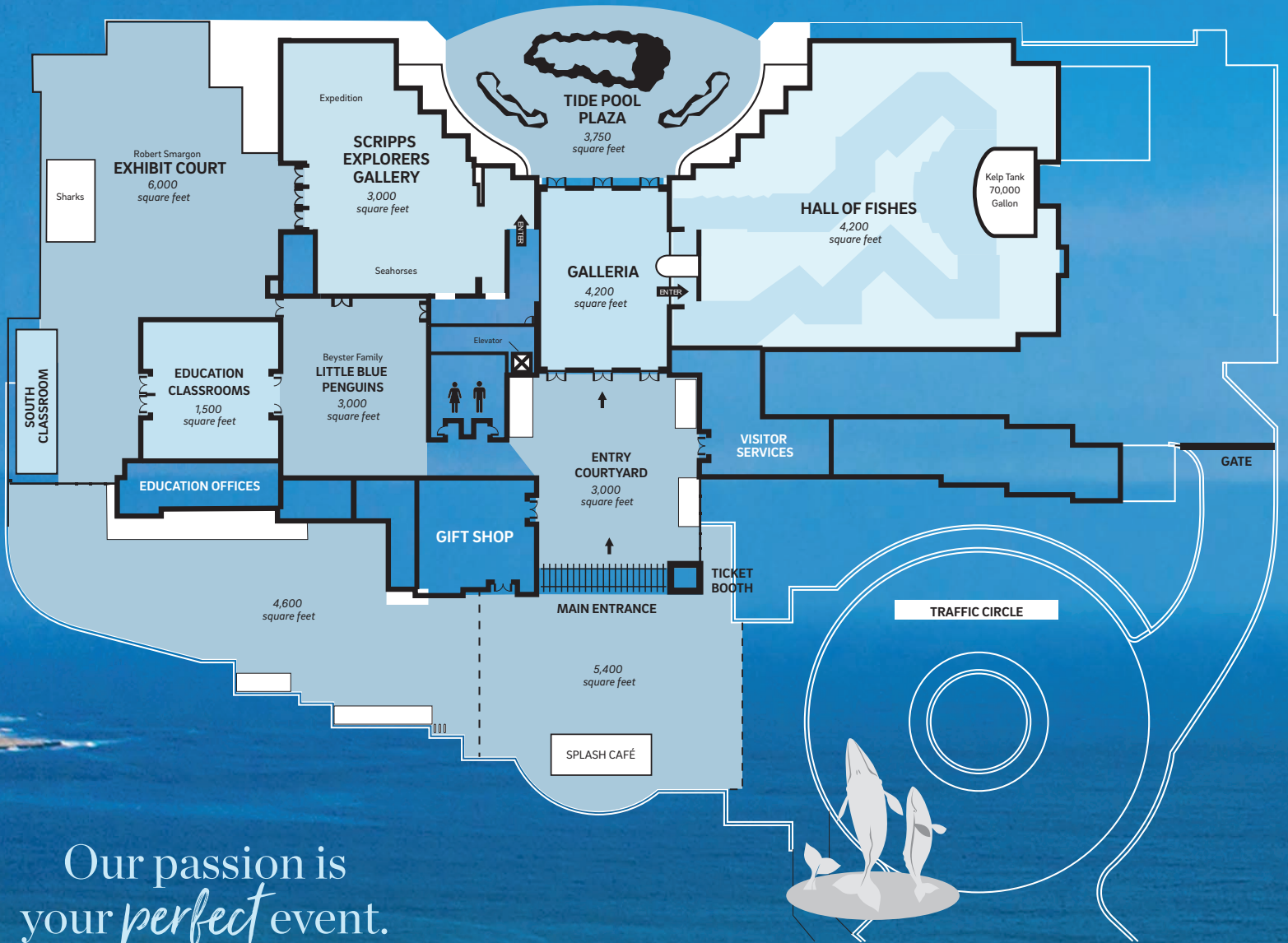
Yes, we do offer an additional hour for an additional fee. Please contact the Special Events Team for details.

DO YOU HAVE EXCLUSIVE CATERING COMPANIES?

Yes, we have vetted an extensive list of excellent caterers through a competitive Request for Proposal process. These are the only caterers authorized to serve at the aquarium and offer excellent food and exceptional service. The selection of caterers provides a variety of menus in a range of prices. Each is familiar with our facility and carries the necessary insurance and health permits. The caterers will provide food, labor, nonalcoholic beverages, tables, linens, chairs, flatware, etc. in their proposal.

Our Venue

*square footage is approximate



Our passion is
your *perfect* event.



Exclusive Catering Collection

“There is no sincerer
love than the *love of food.*”

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Behind the Scenes



AN EXPERIENCE IN GREAT TASTE

No matter the type of event you are planning, Behind the Scenes is your expert, full-service culinary partner who guides you every step of the way. As San Diego's premier catering and event company, our dedicated team delivers a custom-crafted culinary adventure and seamless event planning experience. We begin by creating innovative menus and a one-of-a-kind event design. Whether you are planning a romantic wedding or a large multi-day event, our seasoned team brings all the pieces together to produce a flawless event.



CONTACT

(858)-638-1400

www.btscenes.com



CONTACT

877-577-1718

www.coastcatering.com



Coast

QUALITY, CREATIVITY PROFESSIONALISM

Coast Catering offers full-service event planning and custom catering for every occasion. Whether planning a small private party, major celebration, or high-profile corporate event, enjoy the ultimate experience with our perfect blend of event strategy, custom menu design, and culinary execution. Our unique, boutique-style approach sets us apart from the many catering options available. Our personal dedication to every event provides you with the highest level of service before, during, and after the event.



Continental

WE'LL COOK FOR YOU, IT'S KIND OF OUR THING.

We may be known for our mouthwatering cuisine, but did we forget to mention we're a full-service caterer? And what exactly does that mean? Well, it means that you can take a load off and leave it all to us. From fantastic fare to spectacular staff, we've got you covered. We'll be the peanut butter to your jelly – or the caviar to your vodka. No matter what your preference is, you are everything to us, so we will be everything to you.



CONTACT

619-698-3500

www.continentalcateringsd.com



CONTACT

619-223-1211

www.crownpointcatering.com



Crown Point

YOUR EVENT IS OUR INSPIRATION!

We're proud of our four decades in San Diego and especially appreciative of the rich diverse culture of warmth and hospitality that Southern California inherently offers. Keeping things fresh goes beyond procuring ingredients from the farm or ranch. We're committed to sustaining and supporting our community by keeping it local and in season. Our hand crafted coastal cuisine highlights bold and authentic flavors with a distinct California twist. Whether it's close to home or global, our team of foodies gets inspired when we explore new possibilities to share with others.



Hyatt La Jolla at Aventine



THOUGHTFULLY SOURCED AND CAREFULLY SERVED

We are on a journey to deliver food that is thoughtfully sourced and carefully served. It is what your guests deserve.

Seasonality guides our menus to optimize the freshness of our products.

We enjoy discovering the finest California has to offer, whether it be locally-made artisan products, or new independent farmers. By fostering our relationships with local purveyors, we are confident the products we serve to you are responsibly grown, caught, and foraged. Let's eat!



CONTACT

858-552-1234 x 2122

www.hyatt.com



The French Gourmet

IT'S ALWAYS A DELICIOUS DAY AT THE FRENCH GOURMET!

After more than 42 years serving our patrons, it is a reassurance to know that pursuing our passion for delicious food is appreciated. We enjoy catering — from wedding receptions, holiday parties, social celebrations, fund-raisers, and corporate events to simple individual easy-to-grab-and-enjoy meals — our offering reflects our commitment to originality, freshness, and simple celebration of taste. Our well-known award-winning bakery and restaurant give us the ability to accommodate possible last minutes changes.



CONTACT

858-488-1725

www.TheFrenchGourmet.com



The Wild Thyme Company



INNOVATIVE CUISINE

The Wild Thyme Company is proud to offer only local and organic handcrafted cuisine, and to place great importance on supporting local farms and businesses. Our goal is to bring our client's vision to life through planning, design, execution, flavorful food, and personalized service. We take pride in a heightened awareness of allergies and aversions to food and understands the need for innovative cuisine within these boundaries. We continue to raise the bar for off-premise catering in San Diego – celebrating each and every client with a fun and innovative approach to Mediterranean and Coastal California fares.



CONTACT

858-527-0226

www.thewildthymecompany.com



CONTACT

858-534-3688

www.hdh.ucsd.edu/catering

UC San Diego
HOUSING • DINING • HOSPITALITY
Catering Services

UC San Diego

CREATIVE. PROFESSIONAL. CAMPUS EXPERTS.

From concept to completion, our personalized service, event coordination, and knowledge of the university is second to none. Our culinary kitchen is steps away from Birch Aquarium, guaranteeing the freshest experience and allowing for more creative menu concepts. Whether crafting a multi-day conference with meals, a memorable wedding experience or an elegant fundraising reception and dinner, our experience, with custom menu creation and execution of service always leads to rave reviews. Contact our sales and event team today to start crafting your next special occasion!





PRIVATE EVENTS

2300 Expedition Way | La Jolla, CA 92037
858.822.5439 | aquariumevents@ucsd.edu
www.aquarium.ucsd.edu