

EDUCATION GROUP TOOLKIT



South Carolina
Aquarium

WATER YOU WAITING FOR?

Take a journey with us from the mountains to the sea.

- Explore 60 unique habitats and more than 5,000 animals.
- Follow Bob and Miles on a journey through all five geographical regions of South Carolina.
- Connect with Aquarium experts during daily interactive dive shows from the tallest tank in North America.
- Feed the stingrays in the Saltmarsh Aviary.
- Get a hands-on encounter with marine creatures at our two touch tanks, including Shark Shallows, a 20,000-gallon tank overlooking Charleston Harbor.
- Experience BricksALIVE, featuring life-sized LEGO® sculptures of South Carolina's native species.

Add-ons

- Visit South Carolina's only Sea Turtle Hospital for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary care that is provided to rescued sea turtles. (Available through May 31, 2017)
- Save money and combine a visit to the Aquarium with one of our Tourism Partners. Let us help plan your best day in Charleston.

Hours:

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Top ten tips to make your **FIELD TRIP FIN-TASTIC**

1. Certified South Carolina teachers always receive free admission to the Aquarium. These teachers do not need to be included in the chaperone count for your trip.
2. The Aquarium provides complimentary admission for one chaperone per 10 students. Additional chaperones may join the fun for \$15 each. Please provide the Aquarium with a final student and chaperone count at least one week before your visit.
3. Let our standards-based curriculum enhance your field trip experience on a journey from the mountains to the sea. Prepare your students and download age-appropriate activities at curriculum.scaquarium.org.
4. Print grade-specific scavenger hunts to keep your students actively involved during their self-guided tour of the Aquarium at scaquarium.org/field-trips.
5. The early bird gets the worm! Arrive at least 30 minutes before your reservation time for restroom breaks and orientation. Restrooms are available in the Aquarium Garage and the Fort Sumter Pavilion.
6. A little courtesy goes a long way toward a great visit. Please review our Behavior Guidelines with your students and chaperones before your trip.
7. Don't miss our Daily Programs, including twice-daily interactive dive shows, twice-daily animal feedings and animal encounters every 30 minutes. Learn from our resident experts, and check out our Daily Program schedule at scaquarium.org/calendar for extra fun.
8. Encourage your students to look for fun, hands-on activities throughout the building, including finding Miles and Bob waypoints, experiencing BricksALIVE sculptures, feeding the rays in the Saltmarsh Aviary, and petting live animals in the Touch Tank.
9. Before or after your trip, plan a conservation-themed activity such as a trash clean-up day, a Sea Turtle Care Center™ fundraiser or a classroom Adopt-an-Animal to remind your students that conservation is important 365 days a year.
10. We want to make sure your field trip at the South Carolina Aquarium exceeds your expectations. Call our Customer Service Center at (843) 577-FISH (3474) to speak with an Aquarium staff member about any questions.



ADD TO YOUR FUN

- **Sea Turtle Hospital Behind-the-Scenes Tours**
(Available through May 31, 2017)

Don't miss the opportunity to visit South Carolina's only hospital for endangered and threatened sea turtles. A favorite of visitors of all ages, the Sea Turtle Hospital Behind-the-Scenes Tour will inspire your students to preserve and protect endangered species like our state reptile, the loggerhead sea turtle.

Add on this unforgettable experience for only \$10 per student and \$15 per adult.

- **Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery™**
(Coming spring 2017)

Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery™ will enable you to share in the remarkable journey from rescue, to rehabilitation, to release. This exhibit will address key conservation issues like water quality, marine debris and plastics consumption. Through state-of-the-art technology and interactive experiences, Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery™ will tell sea turtles' critical conservation story.



- **Boxed Lunch Recommendations**

School groups may enjoy picnic-style lunch outside the Aquarium on Liberty Square, under Fort Sumter Museum's covered pavilions next to the Aquarium, or in the arrival area of the Aquarium Garage. Let us recommend approved lunch vendors for convenient lunch options.

- **Aquarium Gift Shop**

The Aquarium Gift Shop offers a variety of inexpensive gifts to remember your visit. Students may peruse the Gift Shop in small groups with the supervision of a chaperone.

- **Tourism Partners**

Provide your students with even more excitement by arranging a field trip to one of our fun, educational partner attractions. Enjoy all that Charleston has to offer at a discounted price. Contact (843) 579-8652 or reservations@scaquarium.org for participating attractions and rates.



Getting to the South Carolina Aquarium

DIRECTIONS FOR BUSES AND MOTOR COACHES

These directions have been customized for buses that are restricted in their use of city streets. In order to abide by Charleston tourism laws, it is imperative that you follow these directions.

From I-26 East

1. Take I-26 to the end and follow the signs to Exit 221B (Meeting Street / Visitors Center/ Downtown).
2. Merge right onto Meeting Street approximately 10 blocks to Calhoun Street.
3. Turn left onto Calhoun Street and continue to Washington Street.
4. Turn left onto Washington Street and follow the signs for motor coach and bus pick-up and drop-off area.

From Highway 17 North (West Ashley)

1. Take Highway 17 North across the Ashley River Bridge, and follow the signs to Calhoun Street.
2. Turn left onto Calhoun Street.
3. Stay on Calhoun Street approximately 15 blocks to Washington Street.
4. Turn left onto Washington Street and follow the signs for motor coach and bus pick-up and drop-off area.

From Highway 17 South (Mount Pleasant)

1. Follow Highway 17 South across the Cooper River.
2. Take the East Bay Street / South Carolina Aquarium exit.
3. At the light, turn left onto East Bay Street and follow to Calhoun Street.
4. Turn left onto Calhoun Street and continue to Washington Street.
5. Turn left onto Washington Street, and follow the signs for the motor coach and bus pick-up and drop-off area.

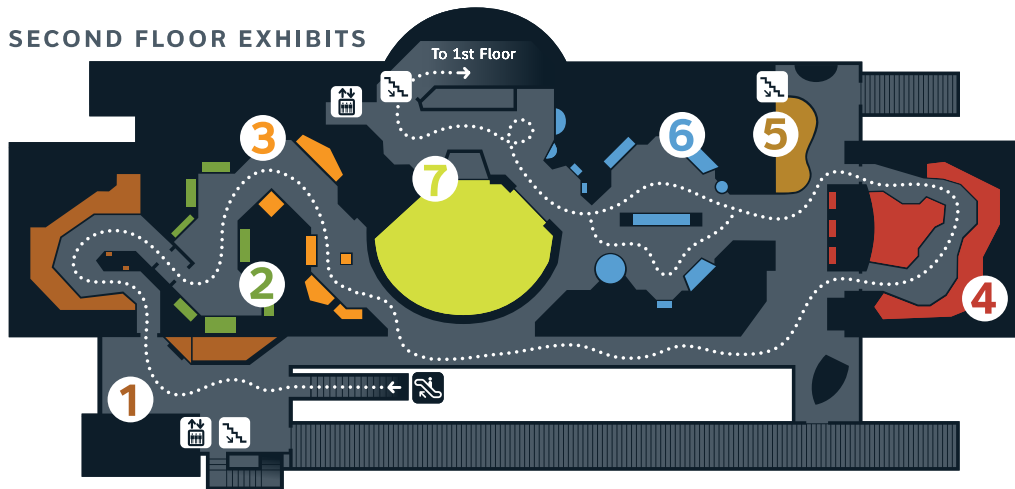
Please be prepared for inclement weather. Your group will walk approximately 100 yards from the drop-off area to the Aquarium.

Buses and motor coaches may park in the bus lane.
Vans may park in the Aquarium Garage.



AQUARIUM FLOOR MAP

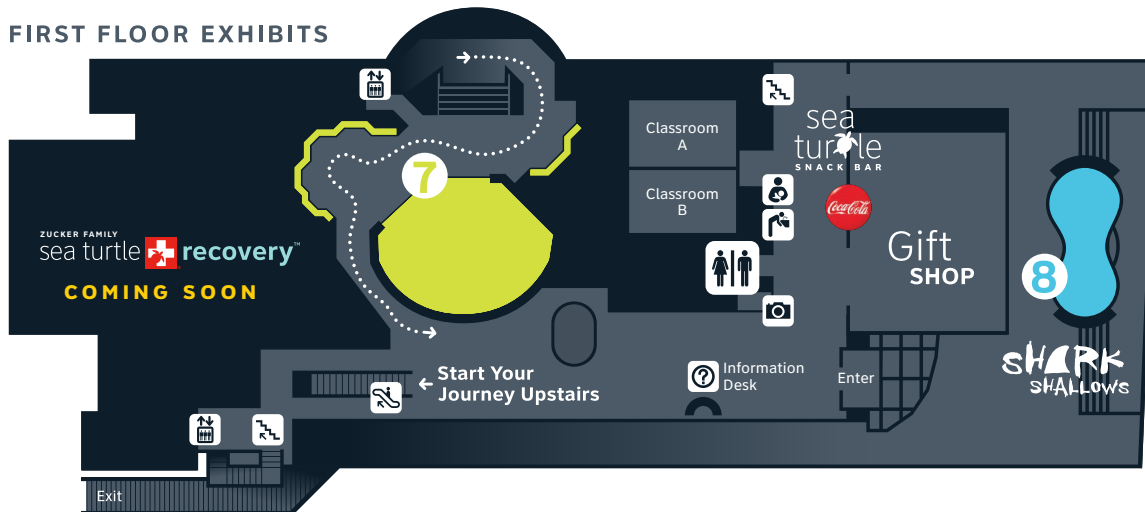
SECOND FLOOR EXHIBITS



Gift Shop

Don't miss your chance to grab the perfect gift or purchase Aquarium gear. A portion of proceeds benefit the conservation work of the Aquarium.

FIRST FLOOR EXHIBITS



Sea Turtle Snack Bar

With a great variety of choices including healthy food options, the snack bar serves up something for everyone in your party.



Restrooms are located on the first floor across from the Gift Shop. Need assistance? Stop by the Information Desk for help. The Nursing Room is located on the first floor adjacent to the Classrooms.



Smoking (including e-cigarettes), heeled shoes, balloons and concealed weapons are prohibited throughout the South Carolina Aquarium.

1 Mountain Forest

Begin your journey from the mountains to the sea with a bald eagle and playful river otters.

2 Piedmont

Visit our American kestrel and see the rich and varied aquatic life supported by streams, rivers and man-made reservoirs.

3 Coastal Plain

Say hello to our albino alligator and learn about snakes and tortoises that call South Carolina home.

4 Saltmarsh Aviary

See coastal birds up close and observe terrapins in their natural habitat. For a hands-on experience, feed the stingrays (while supplies last).

5 Touch Tank

Visit our touch tank and encounter stingrays, sea urchins and more.

6 Coast

From seahorses to sea turtles, meet the creatures that inhabit our coastal waters.

7 Ocean

Pretend you're a SCUBA diver in the 42-foot-deep Great Ocean Tank. See a loggerhead sea turtle, sharks and more than 500 fish!

8 Shark Shallows

Come fingers to fins with sharks and rays at our newest exhibit, featuring a 20,000-gallon touch tank overlooking the Charleston Harbor.



FIELD TRIP CHECKLIST



Before Your Visit

- ❑ Book your trip and submit full payment by contacting the Customer Service Center at (843) 577-FISH (3474).
- ❑ Complete the Signed Agreement and Reservation Changes Confirmation Letter and return to the Customer Service Center via fax at (866) 210-1059 or email at reservations@scaquarium.org.
- ❑ Provide a finalized count of students, teachers and chaperones no later than 21 days prior to your trip to (843) 577-FISH (3474) or reservations@scaquarium.org.
- ❑ Submit payment for additional chaperones no later than 7 days prior to your trip by contacting the Customer Service Center at (843) 577-FISH (3474).
- ❑ Prepare a day-of-visit activity for your students. Age-appropriate Aquarium scavenger hunts can be downloaded scaquarium.org/field-trips. Scroll to the end of the page to access the scavenger hunts. The Aquarium does not provide printed scavenger hunts; please print in advance.
- ❑ Print the Field Trip Toolkit and review it thoroughly. Provide your bus driver with the directions, which are found on Page 4.

During Your Visit

- ❑ Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your reservation time for restroom breaks and orientation.
- ❑ If you are running late, please call (843) 577-FISH (3474) and inform the Aquarium representative of your estimated time of arrival.
- ❑ When you arrive, unload in the bus lane and walk toward the Aquarium. Group leaders should proceed to the ticket window to finalize group numbers and payment. An Aquarium Guide will greet the group in front of the building for a brief orientation before leading you inside.
- ❑ Enjoy your visit! The Aquarium experience is a self-guided tour. Entertaining and educational shows are held throughout the day. For information on show times, look for signs posted throughout the building, ask an Aquarium staff member, or visit scaquarium.org/calendar.

After Your Visit

- ❑ Plan a reflection activity for your students. Send letters, pictures or drawings of your group's Aquarium experience to 100 Aquarium Wharf, Charleston, SC 29401.
- ❑ Encourage your students to take action! Organize a conservation-themed service-learning project, adopt an animal, or raise funds for the Sea Turtle Care Center™ as a class.

Class Adopt-an-Animal Order Form

Please select one of the Adopt-an-Animal options below:

☐ **\$100 - \$249**

What your class will receive:

- Personalized class adoption certificate
- Sea turtle fun fact sheet
- One-year subscription to *tributaries*, our membership magazine
- Sea turtle plush
- Special information about sea turtle beach releases

☐ **\$250 - \$499**

Your class will receive all of the above, PLUS:

- South Carolina Aquarium pencil for each student (limited to 30 people)
- Sea turtle adoption sticker for each student (limited to 30 people)

☐ **\$500 - \$999**

Your class will receive all of the above, PLUS:

- Class picture from SharpShooter Imaging (limited to 30 people; paid group admission required)
- Recognition on the Aquarium blog

☐ **\$1,000+**

Your class will receive all of the above, PLUS:

- Class presentation by a Sea Turtle Care Center™ staff member

(within 40 miles, scheduled 4 weeks in advance; schools further than 40 miles, call for alternative benefits)



Total amount enclosed: _____

Teacher's Name (printed): _____ Grade: _____

Display Name (listed on certificate and for recognition): _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Payment: ☐ Check – made payable to South Carolina Aquarium

☐ Credit Card – Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____



sea turtle
care center™
SOUTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM