Directions to the Monterey Bay Aquarium

By Car:

From Santa Cruz, Watsonville or Castroville
Highway 1 South. Take the Del Monte/Pacific Grove exit, then follow the signs. Allow at least one hour from Santa Cruz, 45 minutes from Watsonville, one-half hour from Castroville.

From Salinas and South County
Highway 68 West to Highway 1 South. Take the Monterey exit, then follow the signs. Allow at least 45 minutes from Salinas and longer from points south.

From Carmel, Carmel Valley or Big Sur
Highway 1 North. Take the Munras Avenue exit, then follow the signs. Allow at least 20 minutes from Carmel and longer from points south, especially during the summer.

From all locations
After the Del Monte/Lighthouse tunnel, take the first right turn onto Foam Street, a one-way street going west.

By Bus:

From Salinas
Take Line 41 from various points in Salinas to the Salinas Transit Center. Next, take Line 20 to the Monterey Transit Plaza. From the Monterey Transit Plaza, take JAZZ B or Line 2 to the Aquarium. This will take just over an hour and will cost $8.50.

From Seaside
Take JAZZ A, B or C to the Aquarium. The JAZZ buses travel from various points in Seaside directly to the Aquarium. This will take around 35 minutes and will cost $2.50.

From Marina
Take Line 19 or Line 20 from Marina Transit Exchange to the Monterey Transit Plaza. From here, take JAZZ A, B or C, or Line 1 or Line 2, to the Aquarium. This will take around 40 minutes and will cost $6.00.

From Castroville
Take Line 27 from Castroville Merritt & Union to the Marina Transit Exchange. Take Line 20 from Marina Transit Exchange to the Monterey Transit Plaza. From here, take the JAZZ bus to the Aquarium. This will take an hour and 25 minutes and will cost $8.50.

From Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield or King City
Take Line 23 to the Salinas Transit Center. Take Line 56 to the Monterey Transit Plaza. From here, take the JAZZ bus to the Aquarium. This will take from one to two hours, depending on where you are coming from, and will cost $9.50.
Q: Where can I park?
There are a number of parking places near the Aquarium although free parking is hard to find. The on-street metered parking places throughout Cannery Row District cost $1.50 an hour. Below is a list of other parking options:

Cannery Row Parking Garage:
Located on Foam Street (601 Foam Street) between Hoffman and Prescott Streets. First hour free, $1.50 per half hour, $18.00 maximum per day. Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted.

Cannery Row Lot #7:
Located on Irving Avenue (160 Irving Street) between Foam and Wave Streets. Pay-by-space pay station, flat rate of $15.00 for all day, $5.00 after 4pm. Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards accepted. Open every day from 9am to 8pm.

Lot #21:
Located between Foam Street, Cannery Row and Reeside Avenue. Pay Station, $1.50 per hour, $10.00 all day. Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards accepted. Open every day from 9am to 8pm.

Lot #24:
Located between Cannery Row and Foam Street. Metered parking, $1.50 per hour. Open every day from 9am to 8pm.

Q: What are affordable options for lunch?
The most affordable option is for you to bring your own lunch. Please note that no outside food or drink may be consumed inside the Aquarium.

Meals are available at the restaurant. We serve a variety of sandwiches, salads and beverages. Snacks cost approximately $4.00, beverages cost between $3.00-$5.00, salads cost approximately $10.00 and sandwiches cost between $8.50-$10.00.

There are also many restaurants on Cannery Row next to the Aquarium. Other affordable options include:

- Nob Hill at 900 Lighthouse Avenue, Monterey. Their deli is a great place to grab some sandwiches and drinks for a picnic lunch.
- Papa John's at 598 Lighthouse Avenue, Monterey.
- Subway at 296 Lighthouse Avenue, Monterey.

Q: If we decide to bring picnic lunches?
There are lockers for personal use located on Hovden Way, just before the Member's Entrance. You can store your lunches and any other personal belongings here. Each locker costs one dollar and only accepts quarters. Locker dimensions are 16"x23"x30".

There are a number of great picnic sites within walking distance from the Aquarium as well, including Lover's Point, Washington Park and San Carlos Beach. Please clean up your trash to keep it out of the ocean. Remember to get a hand stamp by the exits so that you can re-enter the Aquarium after lunch. Please note that no food or drink may be consumed inside the Aquarium.

Q: How long does it take to see the Aquarium?
An average visit to the Aquarium lasts 2 to 3 hours, but you can easily spend the whole day here and still have more to see! Before you come, be sure to check out our website, www.montereybayaquarium.org, to see the Daily Activities schedule.

Q: Photography & video
During your visit, you're welcome to take photos and video for your personal use only. For your safety and the safety of other visitors, we prohibit the use of tripods and monopods in the Aquarium.

Flash photography can hurt some animals—like sea dragons, octopuses and others. Before you click the shutter, please look for signs asking you not to flash the animals. You'll find professional photo postcards of many of our animals in our gift and bookstores.