



NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUM AT PINE KNOLL SHORES
PO Box 580 Atlantic Beach, NC 28512-0580 • (252) 247-4003 • Fax (252) 247-0663

Welcome to the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

HOURS: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

PHONE: 252-247-4003; 1-866-294-3477

ADMISSION: \$8 adults; \$7 ages 62 and over; \$6 children ages 6-17. Children under age 6, members of the North Carolina Aquariums and registered North Carolina school groups are admitted free. Advance sales of 50 or more tickets are discounted 25 percent. Discounts also are available for groups of 10 or more. Call for more information. Admission fees are the same at all North Carolina Aquariums.

FREE DAYS: Free admission on Veterans Day and Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

MEMBERSHIP: An annual North Carolina Aquariums family membership is \$50; individual membership is \$30. Membership includes free unlimited admission at all three state Aquariums for a year, and free or discounted admission at 150 other zoos and aquariums.

WEBSITE: www.ncaquariums.com

DIRECTIONS: Five miles west of Atlantic Beach, Carteret County, on North Carolina's central Coast. From NC 58, turn onto Pine Knoll Boulevard at the stoplight, Milepost 7; turn left onto Roosevelt Boulevard.

ACCESSIBILITY: The parking lot, entrance, exhibits and restrooms are wheelchair-accessible. Some outdoor facilities also are wheelchair-accessible.

ABOUT THE AQUARIUM: The newly expanded Aquarium takes visitors on a tour of North Carolina's amazing aquatic life "from the mountains to the sea." The journey is arranged in five galleries: *Mountain*, *Piedmont*, *Coastal Plain*, *Tidal Waters* and *Ocean*.

Among the 38 innovative exhibits are re-created shipwrecks that showcase the diverse marine life attracted to these sunken vessels. The 306,000-gallon *Living Shipwreck* display in the *Ocean Gallery* features a three-quarter-size replica of a German U-boat that was sunk off Cape Lookout in World War II. The *Queen Anne's Revenge* duplicates the 18th century artifacts in Beaufort Inlet thought to be the wreckage of the pirate Blackbeard's flagship.

Also new to the Aquarium are a pair of playful river otters, a roaring mountain waterfall, a trout pool, a jellyfish gallery, a sportfishing display and a cypress swamp display. Touch pools allow personal contact with stingrays, whelks and other creatures. The Aquarium offers an array of activities and field trips, and has facilities for weddings, celebrations and meetings. Visitors also will find a large gift shop and a snack bar.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources • Michael F. Easley, Governor • William G. Ross Jr., Secretary





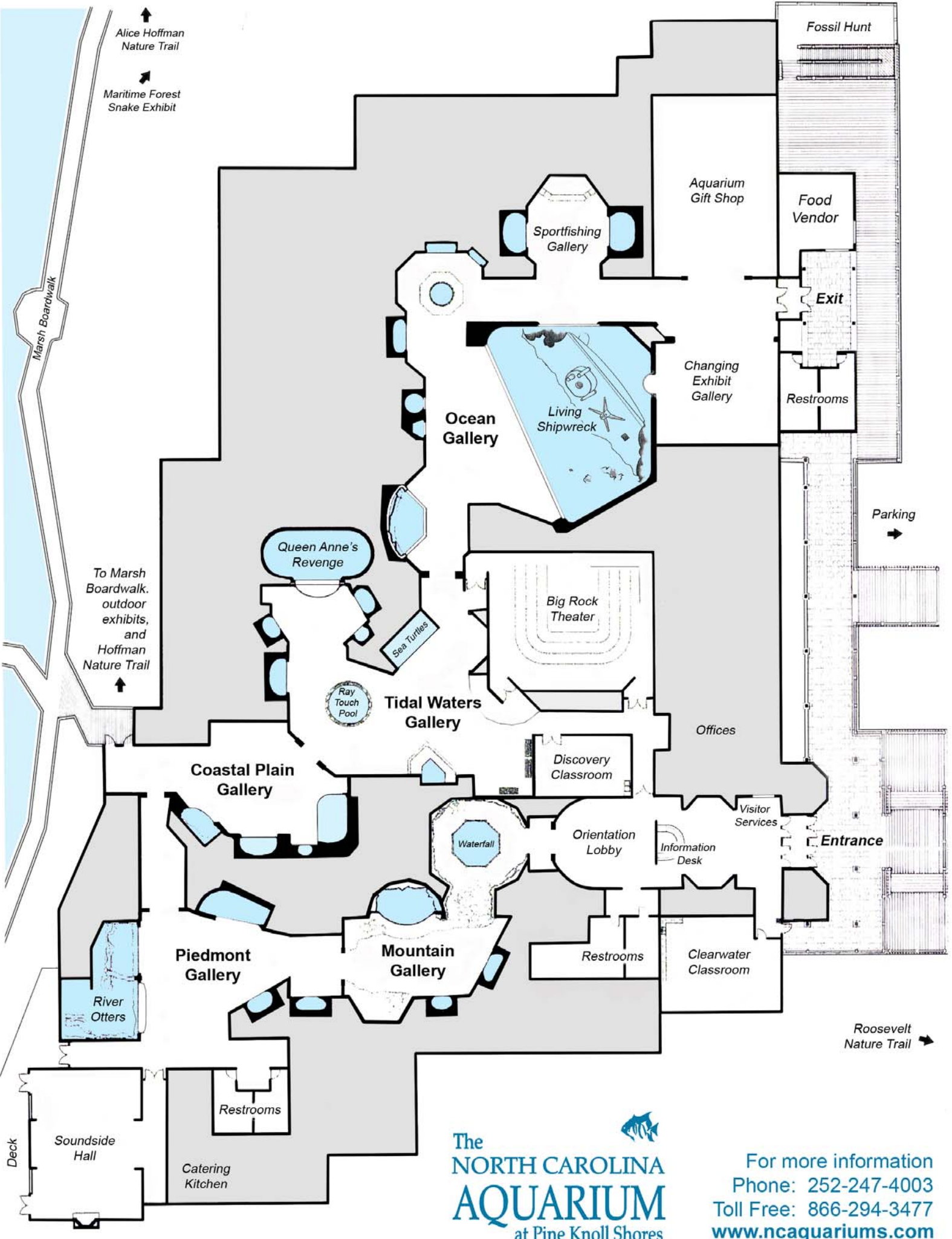
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Quick Facts

- Reopened May 19, 2006 after a \$25 million expansion project that began Jan. 1, 2004.
- More than 450,000 visitors between the Grand Opening May 19 and Dec. 1, 2006. Annual attendance before renovation averaged 250,000.
- Size is 93,000 sq. ft., compared to 29,000 sq. ft. in the former facility.
- More than 100 species and 3,000 animals in 40 exhibits; represents aquatic life "from North Carolina's Mountains to the Sea."
- Largest exhibit: 306,000-gallon *Living Shipwreck*. Features a three-quarter-size replica of a sunken World War II German submarine, the *U-352*, amid a wide diversity of aquatic life. Largest display before the Aquarium closed for expansion contained 12,000 gallons.
- Largest animals: Sand tiger sharks in *Living Shipwreck*; both female. One is 8'6" and weighs 350 lbs.; the other 8' and 300 lbs.
- *Queen Anne's Revenge* is a 50,000-gallon depiction of the marine community and the debris field of an 18th century shipwreck, discovered near Beaufort Inlet in 1996, that is thought to be from a pirate ship once commanded by the Blackbeard.
- *River Otters* exhibit feature Neuse and Pungo, named for North Carolina rivers with the help of the public.
- Other feature exhibits: 32-foot Smoky Mountain waterfall, stingray touch pool, sea turtles, jellyfish gallery, freshwater fishes and reptiles.
- 45 full-time staff, compared to 14 before the expansion. Part-time and seasonal employees brought the total to 90 this past summer.
- Accommodations for weddings, parties and evening rentals, including a catering kitchen. Some daytime rentals also available.
- Wide range of Special Activities programs – field trips, boat excursions, nature crafts, behind-the-scenes tours and more – available for a small additional fee.

One of three aquariums operated by the North Carolina Aquariums, a division of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Aquariums at Pine Knoll Shores, at Fort Fisher and on Roanoke Island share the mission: "Inspiring appreciation and conservation of North Carolina's aquatic environments."





The
NORTH CAROLINA
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 at Pine Knoll Shores

For more information
 Phone: 252-247-4003
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Background

The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores is one of three state Aquariums. The North Carolina Aquariums Division, part of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, also operates the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher and the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island.

The Aquariums share the common mission: “Inspiring appreciation and conservation of North Carolina’s aquatic environments.” They are accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.

The Aquariums opened in 1976 as the North Carolina Marine Resources Centers. The name changed in 1986 and the facilities broadened their focus to include more public education. Visitation increased dramatically in the next few years with the rise in tourism. The General Assembly in the late 1990s appropriated \$15 million for each Aquarium for major expansions at each facility.

Roanoke Island unveiled the results of its two-year renovation in 2000, under the theme, “The Waters of the Outer Banks.” Fort Fisher followed in 2002, with “The Waters of the Cape Fear.”

In 1999, Pine Knoll Shores was only a few weeks behind Fort Fisher in the construction bidding process when Hurricane Floyd flooded Eastern North Carolina. The state diverted the \$15 million in expansion funds for the massive recovery effort. Then the economy slumped, and funding for the Pine Knoll Shores plans stalled.

In response, the Aquarium Division and the North Carolina Aquarium Society – a membership-based, non-profit support organization for all three Aquariums – forged a public-private partnership to raise funds for a \$25 million expansion. The Aquarium staff and architects revised the original design, taking advantage of lessons learned from construction at the Aquarium on Roanoke Island and the Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Construction began in January 2004. The new North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores opened May 19, 2006 under the theme, “North Carolina’s aquatic life from the mountains to the sea.”

