



**New England
Aquarium**

Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110-3399
neaq.org



**New England
Aquarium**

Protecting the blue planet

Special Events

617-973-5205

events@neaq.org





Photo: Todd Wilson Images



Photo: Karen Kelly Photography



Photo: Eric McCallister Photography

Celebrate with Unique Elegance at the New England Aquarium

Weddings at the New England Aquarium

Capture the romance of Boston's historic waterfront with one of the most extraordinary venues in the city. From the engagement to the magical day, your wedding is brought to life with expert coordination and custom-tailored menus. With stunning settings, one-of-a-kind views, and a backdrop of awe-inspiring aquatic animals, the New England Aquarium is a prime wedding location.

Located on Central Wharf between the vibrant Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway and Boston Harbor, the Aquarium provides a number of venues from which to choose.

Venues

Main Exhibit Gallery

Your guests aren't the only ones enjoying your wedding! Party with penguins, majestic sea turtles, and thousands of tropical fish. Our four-story Giant Ocean Tank creates a fascinating centerpiece that will be long remembered. *(Available year-round; strolling dinner with dancing: 142; plated dinner with dancing: 170)*

Harbor View Terrace and Tent

Have cocktails around the New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center with sweeping views of Boston Harbor. Then dine inside our large tented terrace with a vaulted ceiling and archways framing the harbor. *(Seasonal availability April through October; strolling dinner with dancing: 175; plated dinner with dancing: 230)*

West Wing

Gather alongside the largest shark and ray touch tank on the East Coast! This venue is ideal for rehearsal dinners or smaller, more intimate weddings. The West Wing gallery is used for cocktail receptions prior to dinner receptions in the Harbor View Café. *(Available year-round; strolling dinner with full seating: 50; strolling dinner with partial seating: 100; plated dinner: 75)*

Harbor View Café

The ocean-blue tile and natural wood cathedral ceiling make the Harbor View Café the perfect setting for a rehearsal dinner or intimate wedding reception. The floor-to-ceiling windows offer spectacular views of the city skyline and Boston Harbor. *(Available year-round; strolling dinner with dancing: 60; plated dinner with dancing: 75)*



Photo: Artifact Images



Photo: Bharat Parmar Photography



Photo: Leah Haydock Photography



Photo: Next Generation Images

About Us



Photo: Bharat Parmar Photography

Background

Founded in 1969, the New England Aquarium is recognized as one of the world's first modern aquariums. It is a global leader in ocean exploration and marine conservation. The Aquarium is one of the premier visitor attractions in Boston, with more than 1.3 million visitors each year, and is a major public education resource.

Cuisine

The Aquarium's exclusive in-house caterer provides world-class food, all prepared in our very own kitchen. Our Executive Chef has created menus that offer a wide variety of options and show a respect for nature's bounty, which results in dishes that are creative in their simplicity and honesty. The Aquarium proudly features ocean-friendly seafood choices recommended by the New England Aquarium's Sustainable Seafood Programs.

Service and staff

A member of our friendly and knowledgeable catering team will help you plan all the day-of details to create an unforgettable event. On the day of your wedding, our event staff strives to exceed your expectations and deliver seamless steps of service. Please call our Special Events department for more wedding information.

Environmentally friendly barware

Hosting your event at the Aquarium will help support the institution's animals and exhibits and contribute to research and conservation efforts worldwide. High-quality, clear barware made from cornstarch or potato starch, which is biodegradable, compostable, and recyclable, is used for animal safety. Dinner tables may use glassware.

Flowers

The safety of our animals is our first priority. Our Social Catering Manager will provide you with a list of popular wedding flowers that are often used in wedding arrangements as there are some that are harmful to our animal collection and are not permitted on-site for events. If you would like to review this list prior to signing a contract, please ask the Social Sales Manager for more details.

Accommodations

Located in the heart of downtown Boston, the Aquarium is surrounded by several hotel options within easy walking distance. Upon signing a contract, our Social Sales Manager will happily contact these properties to inquire about availability and social room block rates for you.



Photo: Chelynn Sheehan Photography



Photo: Chelynn Sheehan Photography



Photo: Dave Donato / modernArtistry

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Aquarium host on-site ceremonies?

The Aquarium is able to host ceremonies on our South Terrace or in the Main Exhibit Gallery. The ceremony fee includes event staff for the ceremony, ceremony rehearsal (time and location subject to availability), black Chiavari chairs, speakers, and a microphone. During the months of July and August, there is an additional charge for ceremonies that begin before 7:30 p.m.

Is there more than one wedding taking place at the same time?

There will never be two weddings taking place simultaneously in our Main Exhibit Gallery and the Harbor View Terrace Tent, or the West Wing Gallery and Harbor View Cafe. These two sets of spaces are sold together and are exclusively private to you and your guests on your wedding day. The maximum number of weddings and/or events happening at one time is two.

What if there is inclement weather on the day of the wedding?

You and the Social Catering Manager will make the final decision about whether to move the ceremony or cocktail reception inside on the day of the wedding. This decision has to be made six hours prior to the wedding start time.

Is there a discounted rate for different nights of the week or during the off-season?

The Aquarium does extend a discounted room rental and food and beverage minimum for weddings that take place during the off-season (November through April), or on Fridays or Sundays. Please speak to the Social Sales Manager to find out more information.

Is there an opportunity to taste the selected menu items prior to our wedding?

The Aquarium offers a private wedding tasting for up to four guests. Tastings typically take place five months before the wedding and include the choice of two salads, three dinner entrees, and a selection of house wines. We do not taste hors d'oeuvres at this time. If you would like to have more than four people present at the tasting, we are able to accommodate this request for an additional charge.



Photo: Deborah Zoe Photography



Photo: Jamie Ivins Photography

Contact us

For more information about hosting a wedding reception at the New England Aquarium, please call the Events department Monday through Friday at 617-973-5205 or email events@neaq.org.

You are also invited to fill out an event inquiry form online. neaq.org/events



Photo: Redwood & Rye Studio

When do a couple have to give a final guest count to the Social Catering Manager for the wedding?

The final guest count must be communicated to the Catering department seven business days before the wedding. If you are offering preselected entrée options, the final breakdown of meals must be provided to the caterer at this time. All guests will be charged the more expensive entrée option.

What is the Aquarium's deposit schedule?

You will make three separate payments before your wedding. The initial nonrefundable deposit is due upon signing the contract and is based on 33% of the contracted total. The second deposit of 33% will be due five months before the wedding. The final payment is due at the same time as your final guest count, which is seven business days before the wedding.

Directions

The Aquarium is conveniently located on downtown Boston's historic waterfront, and is close to Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market, at 1 Central Wharf, Boston, MA.

From the south

Take I-93 North to Exit 23, marked "Gov't Center, North End, Aquarium, Quincy Market". Turn left at Surface Road and continue for three blocks. Turn left at Milk Street and the Aquarium will be straight ahead.

From the west

Take the Mass Turnpike to I-93 North to Exit 23 off I-93, marked "Gov't Center, North End, Aquarium, Quincy Market". Turn left at Surface Road and continue for three blocks. Turn left at Milk Street and the Aquarium will be straight ahead.

From the north

Take I-93 South to Exit 24 A-B (Callahan Tunnel/Government Center), which is the first exit after you enter the Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Tunnel. Take the right or "A" side of the divided exit (Government Center). Stay left to turn onto Surface Road at the light. Go two blocks to Milk Street and turn left; the Aquarium will be straight ahead.

From Cambridge

Take Memorial Drive North to the intersection with Route 28 (McGrath-O'Brien Highway) and turn right, passing the Museum of Science. When you come to the intersection with Storrow Drive, go straight across the intersection into the tunnel for I-93 South. Take Exit 24 A-B (Callahan Tunnel/Government Center), which is the first exit after you enter the Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. Tunnel. Take the right or "A" side of the divided exit (Government Center). Stay left to turn onto Surface Road at the light. Go two blocks to Milk Street and turn left; the Aquarium will be straight ahead.