



2019 Dana Point Festival of Whales Foundation
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www.festivalofwhales.com

FESTIVAL OF WHALES 48TH ANNUAL EVENT SET FOR MARCH 2, 3, 9 AND 10, 2019 IN DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA

Dana Point, California (December 1, 2018) – The Dana Point Festival of Whales, one of Southern California’s largest and longest running celebrations, kicks off in March with a parade and street fair in downtown Dana Point and then continues with four full days of fun events and activities at Dana Point Harbor. In 2019 the Festival will celebrate its 48th year of paying tribute to the annual migration of California gray whales past Dana Point. With so many fun and educational activities, food and entertainment for the entire family, it is no wonder the event attracts an estimated 50,000+ visitors each year to the two-weekend event. The 2019 Festival is set for the first two weekends in March (March 2, 3, 9 and 10, 2019). The Festival is free to attend. Some events and activities require individual ticket purchase.

The gray whales’ travels along the West Coast on their annual 10,000+-mile round trip migration between warm-water breeding and calving lagoons in Baja Mexico and cold-water feeding grounds in Alaska, provided the awe inspiring sight (along with many other whale species) that served as the original inspiration for this important and iconic Festival.

The Festival provides the perfect opportunity to share the critical message of the need for protecting and preserving marine life and the marine environment. The Festival aims to foster a love and appreciation for cetaceans via entertaining, informative, and cultural experiences for all ages. It is a production of the Festival of Whales Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization founded to inform, inspire and attract residents of Dana Point and visitors from around the world to learn about the planet’s majestic ocean mammals and realize the importance of protecting and preserving the oceans and all ocean life.

The event brings the community together with residents of other cities and nonprofits from around Southern California to provide up-close encounters with whales, to focus on these issues and bring greater awareness of how humans can make a difference through attitude and action. By promoting individual, civic and corporate responsibility for keeping oceans clean, the Festival hopes to be a positive influence for conservation and to spread this important message far beyond the city’s borders.

Scientists believe the 40-ton ocean mammals pass close to the shores of Dana Point each year using the majestic cliffs of the Headlands as a navigational landmark. The whales’ abundant presence so near the coastline has greatly contributed to the city’s reputation as a year round whale watching capital of the world.

Don't miss this year's 48th annual celebration of the Dana Point Festival of Whales, with its two consecutive weekends chock-full of events and activities, including a variety of whale watching excursions. Festival highlights include an opening day parade, street fair, art and craft shows and sales, classic car exhibits, stand-up paddling and sailing opportunities, a sand sculpting and chowder cook-off competitions, concerts on land and water, environmental activities, educational opportunities, interpretive crafts, kids activities, food, spirits/beer gardens, and whale watching excursions aboard a variety of vessels or landside whale watching from breathtaking Dana Point Headlands Conservation Park.

Music has long been a highlight of the Festival and 2019 will be no exception. A new attraction will be added in the form of an opera. On March 9 at 6 p.m., the Ocean Institute will host Whale Songs & Other Tails from the Opera: A Musical Event with Lyric Opera of Orange County. The performance is being hailed as an elegant evening of eclectic opera, featuring whale song, cat calls, bird trills and other operatic animal music, plus refreshments. Ticket sales for this event will begin in January. The free Festival grand finale Concert on the Water at Baby Beach on March 10 from Noon to 5 p.m. will feature three great bands atop a floating stage. Enjoy the music on the sand, in the water or while stand-up paddling or kayaking. A barbecue and spirits garden will be open all day as well. The concert lineup includes:

Noon-1 p.m. Neon Nation – The Ultimate Live '80s Experience

1:30 p.m.-3 p.m. Keston & The Rhythm Killers

3:30 p.m.-5 p.m. DSB – The Next Best Thing To Journey

For those wishing to spend more than a day admiring the graceful leviathans and taking in the sights of beautiful Dana Point, a variety of accommodations are available throughout the city, many offering whale watching packages and unforgettable ocean and harbor view guest rooms.

The 2019 Festival invites visitors to migrate to each and every event via a FREE shuttle service provided throughout the many Festival venues and parking lots. Or hop on a Harbor Cruise boat and migrate "the whales' way" — on the water. www.festivalofwhales.com

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Brief

DANA POINT FESTIVAL OF WHALES SET FOR 2, 3, 9 AND 10, 2019

The Dana Point Festival of Whales, one of Southern California's largest and longest running celebrations, kicks off the first Saturday in March with a downtown parade and then continues with four full days of whale watching and other great events at Dana Point Harbor – March 2, 3, 9 and 10, 2019.

The 48th annual Festival of Whales pays tribute to the annual migration of California gray whales past Dana Point, with many fun and educational attractions, food, spirits/beer gardens, art, music – including beach concerts and an opera – loads of entertainment and adventure. The Festival's many whale watching excursions and other whale-related activities provide the perfect opportunity to share a critical message of the need for protecting and preserving marine life. The Festival aims to foster a love and appreciation for cetaceans via entertaining, informative, and cultural experiences for all ages.

The whales' travels along the coast on their 10,000+-mile round trip migration between Baja Mexico and Alaska provided the original inspiration for this iconic Festival.

Scientists believe the 40-ton ocean mammals pass close to the shores of Dana Point using the majestic cliffs of the Headlands as a navigational landmark. The gray whales' (along with many other species') abundant presence so near the coastline has greatly contributed to the city's reputation as a year round whale watching capital of the world. www.festivalofwhales.com

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Calendar brief (for event calendar listings)

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Mark your calendar for the 48th annual Dana Point Festival of Whales, a fun-filled two consecutive weekends featuring a parade, street fair, art shows/sales, classic cars and boats, food, spirits/beer gardens, beach concerts, an opera, games, contests (sand sculpture, clam chowder cook-off), whale watching and educational activities for all ages. www.festivalofwhales.com

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