



Information: Jim Graves, (949) 719-0588

Get a Close Look at the Migrating Gray Whale: Ocean Institute's Marine Mammal Cruises

Dana Point, CALIF., January 9, 2008 – Gray whale migration season is underway off Southern California's coastline, and the Ocean Institute staff is pleased to introduce visitors to these gentle giants.

The Institute offers weekend Marine Mammal Cruises to provide participants with a ship-board view of whales, dolphins, sunfish, sea lions, and other creatures of the sea. Institute marine biologists lead the cruises onboard the *Sea Explorer*, which makes use of state-of-the-art equipment such as an acoustic array, plankton nets, video microscopes and a sediment sampler.

Trips last 2 _ hours; upcoming trips are:

January 20, 26 & 27, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

February 2, 10, 17 & 24, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

March 22, 30, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

February 10, March 1, 2, 8 & 9, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

March 1, 2 & 9, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

The cost of the Marine Mammal Exploration Cruises is \$35 adults, \$22 for children, ages 4-12 (for Institute members, \$22 adults, \$19 children). Cost includes admission to the Ocean Education Center. For more information, visit www.ocean-institute.org or call (949) 496-2274.

Founded in 1977, the Ocean Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to ocean preservation through education, setting the standard for educational excellence and serving as a leading resource for universities, museums, teachers and all others seeking to increase their knowledge of the ocean. The Ocean Institute is open to the general public on weekends, 10 a.m.

- 3 p.m. Cost: \$6 adults, \$4 children (ages 4-12), Ocean Institute members free. Unique maritime and ocean-themed items are available in the Chambers Gallery everyday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Institute address: 24200 Dana Point Harbor Dr., Dana Point. Website: www.ocean-institute.org. Phone: (949) 496-2274.

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