



new bedford whaling museum

Renting Space at the New Bedford Whaling Museum Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What spaces are available for rent? The New Bedford Whaling Museum offers four unique function spaces for private and corporate events:

- **Harbor View Gallery** – Ideal for seated dinners, cocktail parties, and business functions with a stunning harbor view.
- **Bourne Building (Home of the Lagoda)** – A captivating setting featuring the world’s largest ship model, perfect for receptions and unique photo opportunities.
- **Cook Memorial Theater** – A state-of-the-art media center with stadium-style seating, ideal for presentations, screenings, lectures and even wedding ceremonies.
- **Jacobs Family Gallery** – A spacious area, with an impressive installation of whale skeletons suspended from two-story ceiling, perfect for cocktail receptions outside of the Cook Memorial Theater.

Meeting rooms (15-25 capacity) are also available for rent during Museum hours, equipped with A/V needs for presentations and hybrid meetings.

2. What are the key features of each space?

- **Harbor View Gallery:** Private terrace, dimmable bistro lights, hardwood floors, air conditioning, A/V equipment, ceiling-mounted projector, and accessibility. This space is available for private functions during regular museum hours in addition to after-hours.
- **Bourne Building:** Unique ambiance with the half-scale Lagoda ship model, two-story domed ceiling, hardwood floors, air conditioning, and priceless collections & artwork.
- **Cook Memorial Theater:** State-of-the-art projector, sophisticated sound system with wireless microphones, confidence monitor, retractable projection screen, stadium seating for 220 people, adjustable lighting, and air conditioning. This space is available for private functions during regular museum hours in addition to after-hours.
- **Jacobs Family Gallery:** Open and inviting space, ideal for cocktail receptions and networking events adjacent to the Cook Memorial Theater.

3. What types of events can be hosted at the Museum? Our function spaces accommodate a variety of events, including but not limited to:

- Weddings and receptions [[wedding guide](#)]

- Corporate meetings and conferences
- Lectures and film screenings
- Private dinners and cocktail parties
- Educational workshops
- Holiday parties and more!

4. Is catering allowed? Yes! We work exclusively with a list of pre-approved caterers who are familiar with our spaces and guidelines.

5. Is the Museum accessible for guests with disabilities? Yes, all event spaces are accessible. Please inform us of any specific accessibility needs in advance.

6. What A/V equipment is available?

- Harbor View Gallery and Cook Memorial Theater include projectors, sound systems, wireless microphones, and adjustable lighting.
- The Cook Memorial Theater also features a confidence monitor and retractable projection screen.
- Additional portable A/V equipment is available as needed.

7. Can I schedule a site visit before booking? Absolutely! We encourage potential renters to schedule a tour of the Museum's spaces to determine the best fit for their event.

8. What is the rental pricing and availability? Pricing varies based on space selection, event duration, and additional services required [[rental price chart](#)]. Availability is subject to the Museum's event calendar.

9. Are there any restrictions on decorations? Yes, due to the historical significance of our collections, all decorations must be approved in advance. Open flames, confetti, balloons, popped plants, and adhesives on walls are not permitted. Other restrictions may apply.

10. How do I book a space? To inquire about availability or start the booking process, please contact our events team at specialevents@whalingmuseum.org. Museum rental privilege is a benefit of [Museum Membership](#). If you are not already one, you can purchase membership during the contract process. A 50% deposit and signed rental agreement are required to secure your reservation.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please visit our website or contact us directly.