

Dublin in 2019, an Irish Worldcon FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE

Who will represent your convention at Dublin, and how can they be contacted?

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What are the dates for your convention?

August 23-27, 2023

Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb?

Our location is at the Memphis Cook Convention Center. It is downtown.

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as Auckland, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Dublin, Helsinki, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne?

Coach air fares (2-3 weeks advance purchase/3 month advance purchase both presuming a Saturday night stay and +/-1 day flexibility; exchange rates via Google):

-Auckland: NDZ2029-2184 (\$1313-1413)/NZD1688-1832 (\$1092-1185)

-Boston: \$275-278/\$275-278

-Chicago: \$239-256/\$239-256

-Dallas: \$136-228/\$136-228

-Dublin: EUR817-1150 (\$924-1300)/EUR643-899 (\$721-1007)

-Helsinki: EUR898-1300 (\$1015-1471)/EUR767-1000 (\$859-1120)

-London: £953-1150 (\$1147-1384)/£597-714 (\$720-862)

-Los Angeles: \$237-254/181-197

-Melbourne: AUD1422-2266 (\$965-1538)/AUD1464-1703 (\$995-1158)

-New York City: \$226-262/\$255-270

-Seattle: \$204-321/\$293-296

-Washington, DC: \$211-296/\$194-244

- Is your closest airport a hub for a major carrier?
Memphis is no longer a hub; however, it has direct flights from most hubs
- Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?
A small number of international flights to/from Canada fly into Memphis, but the airport is primarily domestic.
- If not, where is the closest international airport?

The international flight situation is similar at all airports in the region. The nearest "true international" airports are in Chicago (from which there is a daily train), Dallas, and Atlanta.

- Which airlines service your airport?
Memphis International is served by American, Delta, Southwest, and United as well as Frontier, Allegiant, and Southern Airways Express.
- Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

There are direct flights to/from Chicago (both O'Hare and Midway), Dallas (both DFW and Love Field), and Los Angeles (LAX).

- Are there other major transportation options to reach your city such as ship or train?
Amtrak runs daily service from Chicago to New Orleans via Memphis. Coach fares over

the next 30 days, from Chicago, run from \$87-168 one-way, while roomettes (with one passenger) run roughly \$197-259 one-way and bedrooms run \$259-420 one-way.

How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?

-The Memphis airport is approximately ten miles from the Convention Center. Taxi fare is estimated at \$27.98, with ridesharing in the ballpark of \$18-20.

-The Memphis Amtrak station is approximately 1.5 miles from the Convention Center. Taxi fare is estimated at \$10, with ridesharing in the ballpark of \$8. The Riverfront Trolley Bus line stops at the station (operating every 40 minutes) and the Main Street Trolley Rail line stops approximately one block away (operating every 12 minutes). Both will take you to the convention center and the hotel areas.

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention?

-Our primary hotel will be the Sheraton Memphis (approximately 600 guest rooms). We expect to have additional room blocks at other hotels in the vicinity; the other hotels either adjacent to the Convention Center or in a cluster several blocks away within one block of the Main Street Rail Line have roughly another 1200 rooms. We expect that these hotels will provide a wide range of price points. We also note that several more hotels in this area are expected to be operational by 2023.

-We have not started negotiating rates with the hotel, but a two-week advance purchase rate for the same period this year at the Sheraton comes to \$169/night before tax as a refundable rate and \$133/night before tax as a prepaid, non-refundable rate. These rates do not include breakfast. Lodging taxes add approximately \$25-32/night at the aforementioned rates.

-The Sheraton is physically attached to the Convention Center (with an enclosed bridge). The other hotels in the area are primarily located on or within a block of a trolley/streetcar line that runs every 12 minutes all day.

-Based on demand and needs, we will examine the possibility of supplementary shuttle service.

-We will also look at the possibility of offering free access to the Memphis Trolley system for the duration of the convention, depending on the cost of doing so.

Please describe your convention site facilities. For example, the quantity and sizes of function rooms, tech options, accessibility issues, etc.

The Memphis Cook Convention Center contains approximately 300,000 square feet of total space (meeting rooms, ballrooms, pre-function, etc.). This includes a 118,000 square foot exhibit hall and 46 meeting rooms (most of which can be combined into larger spaces, as programming needs dictate). The facility appears to be completely ADA-compliant, but we will ensure that we have a more detailed response for this by SmofCon.

Where would your large events (for example the Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?

The Convention Center has an attached 2100-seat auditorium (the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts) which can readily host the "big ticket" events.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Downtown Memphis has a number of restaurants, and Memphis is in particular known for its BBQ. In addition to restaurants located near the Convention Center and along the pedestrianized Main Street Rail Line, Beale Street is located a short trolley ride from the convention center.

What are the policies/laws regarding smoking at your:

Hotel(s): Memphis bans smoking in all hotels.

Convention Center: Our convention center will be non-smoking.

City: Smoking is banned in all enclosed public spaces per public law. There is not a ban on outdoor smoking.

What type of weather can we expect at the time of year your convention is to be held?

-You can expect hot weather. Average highs are around 90F/32C, with lows around 70F/21C. On average, it rains about once a week.

What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space?

-This will be negotiated. We should have an approximate answer no later than the 2020 Worldcon.

Do you have a corkage waiver and a forkage waiver?

-This is presently under negotiation. We should have an approximate answer no later than the 2020 Worldcon.

Are there legal restrictions on attendees who are under the legal drinking age? (And what is that drinking age?)

-The drinking age is 21. We will be examining state/local laws in the upcoming weeks/months to avoid any post-vote surprises.

What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

-Graceland

-The Memphis Zoo

-Beale Street

-Lots of Blues music

-Lots of BBQ

Do you currently have a code of conduct in place for your bid/convention?

-We intend to have a Code of Conduct, the details of which we expect to be able to disclose no later than the 2020 Worldcon.

Are you planning to have any membership discounts for specific groups, such as young adults, military, seniors or families?

-We are planning to have group discounts for young adults, children, first-time Worldcon attendees, and military members. We will examine pricing packages for families as well as for kids-in-tow and similar scenarios.