

Dublin in 2019, an Irish Worldcon FANNISH INQUISITION QUESTIONNAIRE

SEATTLE 2025

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

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What are the dates for your convention?

Dates have not been set yet. We are aiming for early to mid-August 2025.

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

- If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city center? How far is the site from the city center?

Our location will be in downtown Seattle. We are currently looking at the Washington State Convention Center, the Washington State Conference Center, and the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Hyatt Regency Hotel opened in early 2019. It's a new facility with 5 floors of function space plus ballrooms.

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?

- Is your closest airport a hub for a major carrier?
- Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport?
- If not, where is the closest international airport?
- Which airlines service your airport?
- Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?
- Are there other major transportation options to reach your city such as ship or train?

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?

SeaTac International airport is a major hub for several airlines. The biggest carrier is Alaska Airlines with Southwest as a close second. There are direct flights from Dublin, Tokyo, London, New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, and many other cities. All major US carriers have some sort of flight into and out of SeaTac as do most international carriers.

SeaTac International is 15 miles from downtown Seattle. There are many fantastic options for transportation into Seattle from the airport. There is link light rail—a 50 minute train/subway ride from the airport directly to downtown Seattle. From the Westlake Station stop, you will be approximately 6 blocks from the convention center. Cost for a one-way ride on link light rail is \$2.25 to \$3.25, and tickets can be purchased on the platform.

There is also a well-marked area for picking up taxis, Lyfts, or Ubers from the airport to the city. These rides will cost approximately \$40--\$60. There are also town cars available for a flat \$50 fee, and a service called Shuttle Express that picks up in the same area with advance reservations. Shuttle Express will take you anywhere and is approximately \$30/person.

Most downtown hotels no longer have shuttle service to the airport.

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

- How many rooms?
- How many Singles/Doubles/Kings?
- What other types of rooms are available? How many are handicap accessible?
- Are there any accessibility issues?
- What are your hotel room rates?
- Do these rates include breakfast?
- What is the lodging tax rate for your hotels? Are taxes included in the prices you have quoted?
- Do the rates include internet in the room?
- Do any of the hotels have shuttles to/from the airport, train station, or port?
- What is the distance from the main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site?
- What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

As mentioned up top, we're still 6 years out. This information has not been nailed down yet. Generally speaking, most Seattle hotels include internet in the room, and they will be incredibly close to the convention center. We are looking at blocks likely in the Seattle Sheraton, Grand Hyatt, and Hyatt Regency. Outside of the convention block, there are several independent hotels within a 10-12 block radius. There is a DoubleTree by Hilton (the Arctic Club) within 14 blocks of the convention center. Marriott properties are generally outside of the downtown core although there is one on the waterfront.

The tax rate for all downtown Seattle hotels is 15.6%.

Seattle sidewalks are generally scooter friendly in the areas closest to the Convention Center as that area is flat. For people who may want to venture further afield, we will have special maps that show you the secret elevators to get up the hills.

We're also committed to the idea of providing information about low-cost accommodations. At the edge of downtown for example, there is a Holiday Inn and a Best Western. They are approximately a 25 minute walk for an able-bodied person from the Convention Center. There is also a hostel by Pike Place Market, which is a 7 block walk from the Convention Center. Additionally, if people chose to utilize AirBnB units outside of downtown Seattle, we will have information about public transit options into downtown Seattle.

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

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

For the convention center, it is a more vertical space than horizontal. However, it is still large. It hosts PAX, Emerald City Comic-Con, and SakuraCon every year so there is plenty of space for programming, exhibits, and most events. It is a fully accessible building.

The Hyatt Regency is a brand-new facility. It has 103,000 square feet of meeting space with 52 meeting rooms and 4 ballrooms. It also has foyer and mezzanine space that can be rented.

Location for the Hugo Awards and Masquerade is still under consideration including looking at a nearby historic theater, The Paramount. The Paramount is 2 blocks from the Convention Center.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Varied and awesome. You can get any cuisine you want in downtown Seattle. In the Convention center, there is a crepe place, a Subway, and a general café. Across the street is an Indian place. A block down is a Cheesecake Factory and steak place. 2 blocks down, there is Pacific Place, which has a food court. 4 blocks down, there is Westlake Mall, which has another food court. And, during the weekdays, Westlake Place also has a food truck extravaganza. Pike Place Market, with several food options, is a 7 block walk from the Convention Center.

What are the policies/laws regarding smoking at your:

- Hotel(s):
- Convention Center:
- City:

State law prohibits smoking (tobacco or marijuana) indoors and within 25 feet of a building entrance.

What type of weather can we expect at the time of year your convention is to be held? What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

Weather that will make you suspect Seattle residents lie about the rainy weather. It will likely be in the 70s to 80s and sunny.

This is by no means a definitive list, and we will definitely have a longer list on our bid website.

There is Pike Place Market, the Underground Tour in Pioneer Square, Ride the Ducks, the Space Needle, the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP), which has the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, the Pacific Science Center, the Olympic Sculpture Park, Smith Tower, and the Klondike Museum. There is also Elliott Bay Bookstore in Capital Hill, which is a quarter mile walk from the convention center.

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

- Do you have a corkage waiver and a forage waiver?
- Are there legal restrictions on attendees who are under the legal drinking age? (And what is that drinking age?)

We will be able to have parties in sleeping rooms. However, if groups wish to serve alcohol in an open-party environment, WA state law requires that they have a special occasion license. These licenses are \$60/per event and can only be obtained by a 501c3. The license also requires that you sell your drinks at cost. Since the license gives you access to purchase alcohol at wholesale prices from special stores, you can sell drinks for .50 cents.

Additionally, the WA State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board has recently re-interpreted the special occasion license and will only grant one license per location per group. There is a work around for this, but open, alcohol parties will require coordination among the party groups. This is an area that we will have a dedicated person on for the convention. And, frankly, we expect that this interpretation will no longer be in place by 2025 as several groups within fandom and without are working to change it right now.

If you do wish to have a private, invitation only event, you can use just a \$10 banquet permit as an individual. However, if a Liquor and Cannabis Control Board Agent comes to the event, you must be able to provide an invitation list.

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

- If so, what is it?
- If not, do you intend to have one?

We do not currently have a code of conduct in place; however, we do intend to do so. Our internal deadline for implementing policies is the first quarter of 2020.

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

Yes, we do. We have been spending a lot of time thinking about the cost accessibility of Worldcon and have several ideas for hopefully reducing costs in order to be able to reduce membership costs. Specifically, there will be discounts for families, young adults, and fans in need. We also have some thoughts about offering tiered membership options a'la the YMCA camps out here. (There are 3 prices for a week of camp, and you choose which price point you can afford to pay. This way people who can afford more can pay more and those who can't, don't have to.)