

Fannish Inquisition Survey: New Zealand in 2020 Worldcon Bid

Worldcon Bid: New Zealand in 2020

What are the proposed dates for which you are bidding? Late June to late August, 2020

What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb?
Probably Wellington or Auckland, in central locations in the city.

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

LA - Auckland: about US\$1600
Boston - Auckland: about US\$1900
London - Auckland: about US\$2000
Melbourne - Auckland: varies widely US\$400-US\$500
To Wellington will be similar.

Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

Auckland is a full international airport.
Wellington is largely domestic, although does international to Australia and other Pacific islands.

In most cases, a WorldCon in Wellington would require flying into Auckland or Christchurch international airports, then a domestic flight to Wellington.

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?

Wellington airport is about 10 mins road transport from the central city, where the convention would be taking place. Shuttles and taxis are plentiful. Cost to the city in a taxi is about NZ\$25. Shuttles are cheaper per person.

Auckland International is 30-40 mins from the central city. Taxis, buses and shuttles are always available. Unsure of typical costs, but the bus is about NZ\$20.

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, accessibility issues, etc.?

Hotels are yet to be settled. But in both possible sites there are hotels either on site, or literally 1 minute walk away. Plus many more within easy walking distance.

What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet in the room?

Unknown at this time. To give an idea, the 5 star hotel in Wellington across the road from the convention center is currently charging US\$160-US\$200 for standard rooms.

The 3 star 2 minutes walk away is charging about 3/4 that, with discounted rates.

We would be negotiating the best rates possible.

Note that in general New Zealand hotel rooms are a bit smaller than US hotel rooms.

At this stage internet is usually a separate charge, but by 2020, who knows.

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?

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Main hotels are either on site, or 1-2 minutes walk away.

What is the cost to park a car at the convention / hotel facilities?

Unknown, but typically would be on the order of NZ\$20 - NZ\$30 per day for city car parks.

If using overflow hotels (or hotels not directly connected) what is the cost of a cab ride door-to-door with the convention center?

I would expect a minimum of NZ\$10.

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

A worldcon in Auckland would almost certainly use Sky City. This is a purpose built convention center with many breakout rooms as well as large event capable rooms.

In Wellington, we would use the Wellington Convention center and the Amora hotel (just across the road) for venue space.

Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?

Sky City in Auckland has onsite venues for such event, but there are also other venues such as the Civic Theatre what would add charm and flair.

In Wellington the Wellington Convention center has large theatres cable of holding these events.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Both Auckland and Wellington have large numbers of restaurants within easy walking distance. There is a great range, but the majority are excellent.

Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.

New Zealand is smoke free in public places. Hotels MAY have specific smoking rooms whcih could be requested, but that must be confirmed.

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

Since we would expect to hold a New Zealand Worldcon in late August, it is the end of winter. The New Zealand climate is mild, but it would still be chilly outdoors. Auckland is slightly warmer than Wellington. Both cities would have reasonable chance of rain at that time of year.

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

Wellington would be most famous for its film industry and work on the Lord of the Rings films, and now the Hobbit films. The Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa, is in Wellington and is always worth a look.

Auckland has many tourist attractions, from the War Memorial Museum to Bungee Jumping off the Sky City tower...

But really, if you're going to come all the way to New Zealand, you want to experience the country itself. If you have time, we would seriously suggest venturing outside the main centers of Wellington or Auckland to see what the rest of New Zealand has to offer. It would be worth it.

We would look to partner with Tourism New Zealand to help attendees get ideas of what they can do, and what they might be able to see in their time in New Zealand.

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Who is on your committee? Who is your bid chair? What experience do they have in general? In running this convention in particular?

Norman Cates is the bid chair. General Committee - Kevin Maclean (New Zealand), Maree Pavletich (New Zealand), Lynelle Howell (New Zealand), Malcolm Fletcher (New Zealand), Louise McCully (New Zealand), Struan Judd (New Zealand), Daphne Lawless (New Zealand), Andrew Ivamy (Queensland, AU Agent), James Shields (European Agent)

If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?

Unknown at this time. As you are probably aware, New Zealand has never hosted a WorldCon before, and is a small country. The entire population of New Zealand is smaller than many cities where a WorldCon has been held. We know this going in, and so will be asking for advice and support from many people who HAVE run these events before. We are still in this process.

What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

This is unknown yet. We would expect this to be available in one of the nearby hotels. But this is in progress.

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

Unknown, but likely.

Are you participating in pass-along funds?

Yes.