

Fannish Inquisition Survey: San Antonio Worldcon

Worldcon: LoneStarCon 3, 73rd Worldcon

What are your dates? Thursday August 29th through Monday September 2nd, 2013

What is your convention host city? 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?

San Antonio, Texas Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, located in heart of downtown San Antonio.

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

London - \$848, Boston - \$437, Chicago - \$300, Los Angeles - \$350, Melbourne - \$1600 to \$1900

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?

Yes – United, American Airlines, US Air, British Airways

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?

Airport – 9.2 mile away. Shuttle approx - \$19, Taxi \$22 to \$26. Bus and Rail stations are approximately 0.8 miles away.

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

The Marriott Rivercenter and Marriott River Walk will be our host hotels. They are literally across the street from each other and the River Walk hotel is directly across the street from the convention center.

The Marriott Rivercenter is connected to the Rivercenter Mall with dozens of shops and restaurants. The Little Marriot, or as it's officially called, the San Antonio Marriot Riverwalk, is directly across the street from the Convention Center, and is an entirely non-party hotel.

On the other side of the Marriott Riverwalk from the Convention Center is the San Antonio Marriot Rivercenter (AKA Big Marriot), which is the larger of our two Convention hotels and will play host to the Hugo Awards Ceremony, Masquerade, evening/night convention programming, as well as the Con Suite and room/suite parties. Although most of that hotel will also be non-party – it's where most of the bedrooms are, and there are plenty of rooms on both party and non-party floors.

The mall, hotels and convention center are all linked by the world famous Paseo del Rio (River Walk), a portion of the San Antonio River. You can easily walk below street level from one to another, avoiding traffic and enjoying the cool, shaded comfort of the San Antonio River. The River Walk, a pedestrian only, fully wheelchair accessible foot path offers direct access to the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center without having to face street traffic.

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

- \$154 / night Single, Double
- \$175 / night Triple, Quad
- \$35 for each extra person

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

At the convention hotels \$25 per day. At other local facilities varying prices, but generally less than \$25 per day.

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?

2 blocks (.1 mi) from the Marriott Riverwalk and 1 block from the Marriott Rivercenter

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

Cost depends on the distance. Generally approximately \$10.

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

We will be using the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center located in downtown with the renowned River Walk only steps outside. Exhibit Hall A with over 120,000 square feet and many of the smaller meeting rooms will provide ample room for all our daytime activities. At night, most of the Convention activities, including the hotel room parties, will move to the Marriott Rivercenter.

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

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Both will be held in Marriott Rivercenter; we will be using the ballroom where those events were held at LoneStarCon 2 in 1997.

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Our facilities are located on the San Antonio Riverwalk which provides varied restaurant offerings in terms of venues of cost, and quality. Dining on the actual San Antonio River is also an option (with reservations required).

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

No smoking inside any of our facilities. Smoking outside on the Riverwalk is allowed.

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

In August/September the weather in San Antonio is sunny and clear with an average outside temperature on the Riverwalk in the upper 80s or lower 90s, temperatures will be warmer at street level during the day. The possibility of severe weather (hurricane) is a possibility.

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

First would be the San Antonio River Walk which has been expanded since 1997 with its many shops, restaurants, museum and mission walk. The San Antonio Museum of Art and the Texas symbol of freedom, the ALAMO are located one to two blocks from our hotels. The largest Mexican market in the US is located 5 blocks from the hotels. Located in and around San Antonio are the San Antonio Zoo (one the nation's largest), the San Antonio Japanese Tea Garden, SeaWorld, Fiesta Texas, the San Antonio Botanical Garden, and the neighborhood of Southdown with its quirky shops and restaurants.

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

Co-Chairs, Division Heads, staff, committees, and advisors include several former Worldcon chairs and many decades of convention volunteers on all levels. We are using both local and worldwide fans to enhance our convention and its offerings. High level staff include but are not limited to Bill Parker, Laura Domitz, Karen Meschke, Joe Siclari, Rondi Olsen, Glenn Glazer, Patty Wells, Warren Buff, Joyce Hooper, Steven Stanton, Sharon Pierce, Dina Krause, Terry Fong, Bill Child, Chuck Shimada and Fred Duarte

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

Co-Chairs are Bill Parker and Laura Domitz. Both have decades of experience volunteering at Worldcon, regional and local convention in a variety of positions.

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

We have a numerous suites in the hotels for parties; our main hospitality suite will be on the main second floor of the Marriott Rivercenter. We do have a limited corkage waiver.

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

Yes, currently we have a set fixed rate for Young Adults of \$110 and Military \$110.

Are you participating in pass-along funds?

Yes.