

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What the fastest way to get into the Exhibit Hall when the show opens in the morning? Because of the large number of people who attend the show each day, Comic-Con needs to control the lines for opening. There are two lines that you can wait in for the show to open. One is located in the Sails Pavilion across from Registration; the other is via the hallway from Room 20 down the back of the building to Room 27. These lines move first, and most of the people in them are let in before entry is allowed through the front lobby doors. Of course you can just sit and wait for the line to be done and then walk in. People with disabilities should contact the disable services desk in Lobby B to access a separate waiting area.

Why do I have to wait until 10:00 a.m. to get into the Exhibit Hall? With the sheer number of attendees, the Comic-Con staff, exhibitors, and security need the few available hours to set up and get ready for the day's events.

Does my membership get me into everything? All event spaces have limited capacity as set by the Fire Marshal. So even though a badge is needed to get into all programming events, it *does not* guarantee you access to an event that has reached its capacity limit.

Where is the Blood Drive? The Blood Drive is in the Convention Center, in Room 29BCD on the Upper Level on Friday and Saturday from 10:00 to 5:30 and on Sunday from 10:00 to 3:00. If you wish to give blood, please sign up at the Blood Drive booth in the Sails Pavilion on the top level.

What are all these lines for? Depending on where the line is, the reasons vary. There is often a long line at the ATMs in the lobby, the Starbucks, and Kinko's/FedEx, each of which is quite popular. On the Upper Level, there are lines for the various Autograph sessions, Registration, popular programmed events, and (late on Saturday) the Masquerade. In the Exhibit Hall, a line could be for an individual booth event or for the concession stands. To find out which line is which, please look for the various directional signs marking those areas, or refer to this Events Guide.

My friend is inside the hall with my badge—can you let me in to find her? No, but you can use the message area on the Information Board located in the Lobby (Hall C) to leave her a message. We strongly recommend that prior to coming to the convention, you arrange a meeting point with all members of your party just in case. Keep in mind that there is no paging—see the item on page 4.

How do I get upstairs? You can use the escalators in the Front Lobby, the stairs or elevator located in the Hall B area of the Main Lobby, the escalators in the Hall D lobby, the escalators in the Hall H lobby, or the back

escalators/stairs/elevator in the rear of Halls A–C.

How do I get to the Mezzanine? To get to the Mezzanine from the Front Lobby (Halls A–C), take the escalators, stairs, or elevator to the Upper Level. Walk all the way to the back of the building past the Sails Pavilion to the stairs/escalators/elevator and go down one level to the Mezzanine. If you are in the Exhibit Hall, go to the back lobby of Halls A–C and take the escalator/elevator/stairs up one flight to the Mezzanine level (there is no Mezzanine level in Halls D–G).

When is the banquet? Where do I get tickets? Comic-Con hasn't had a banquet for over a decade. The Friday night Eisner Awards ceremony, which begins at 8:30, is not a meal function—so be sure to eat first before attending. Some concession stands may be set up near the Ballroom 20 lobby where the awards are being held.

What are the Eisner Awards? Considered the "Oscars" of the industry, the Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards will be held Friday night in Ballroom 20 at the Convention Center. For more complete information, see page 8.

Where the heck is Ballroom 20? It's on the Upper Level, above Hall D. To reach it you can go through the Sails Pavilion from the north side, you can take the escalator in the Lobby of Hall D, or you can climb the stairs between the two halves of the Convention Center.

I heard you have to pay to attend the Eisners—is that true? There is no charge for the Eisners; all you need is a four-day or a Friday badge. However, it's a gala event, so you are advised to dress nicely. If you want to purchase alcohol, you will need ID (no matter what your age!).

What is the Masquerade? The Masquerade is the on-stage costume competition held on Saturday night at 8:30 in Ballroom 20 at the Convention Center.

I heard you have to pay to attend the Masquerade—is that true? There is no charge for the Masquerade; all you need is a four-day or a Saturday badge. Because of limited seating, a ticket is required, but these tickets are free and are available to those who get in line on Saturday evening (see the article on page 8).

Do you have to wear a costume to attend the Masquerade? No, but you can if you want to.

Where are the Filmss rooms? There is still a films program at the Center, but it is only at night on Thursday through Sunday, plus Sunday afternoon for family favorites; films are shown in Room 5AB starting at 7 p.m. This year's Convention Center schedule has gone digital—check the listing on page 78 for what's playing. The nighttime Films program at the Hyatt features favorites in 16mm—with a Thursday night *Lord of the*



Rings extravaganza of all three LoTR films, starting at 6:00. The films room is on the fourth floor of the hotel, in the Randle (formerly Regency) Ballroom.

Where can I get something to eat? There are several food stands operated by the Convention Center available in the Exhibit Hall, on the Upper Level, and in the Main Lobby. You can also find snacks and sodas at the Con Suite in the Hyatt Hotel in the Regency Ballroom on the 4th Floor (Thursday through Saturday nights from 5:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.) Please refer to the Restaurant Listings in this guide for eating suggestions around town.

Where do I find out if my favorite artist, writer, actor, etc. is signing autographs? Please check the listings for autograph signings in this guide. If your favorite is associated with a booth or publisher in the Exhibit Hall, check the “Around the Booths” section of this guide to see whether the person is listed as appearing at the booth, or go to the booth for possible signing schedules. For schedule changes, please check the onsite newsletter, available every morning at the registration desks, the Freebie tables, and the entrances to the Exhibit Hall.

Where do I get a Freebie bag? You can obtain your Freebie bag when you pick up your badge/badge holder at Registration. Additional freebies are available at the Freebie tables located in the Sails Pavilion on the Upper Level.

If I leave, can I come back in? Do I need a hand stamp? You can come back into the Exhibit Hall and all the events as long as you have your Comic-Con badge with you and it’s valid for the day you wish to reenter. Single-day memberships are valid only for the day for which they are purchased. You do not need a hand stamp.

How late are you open? The Exhibit Hall is open from 10 to 7 Thursday through Saturday and from 10 to 5 on Sunday. The programming rooms upstairs and on the Mezzanine have events running until midnight Thursday and Friday and until 2:00 a.m. on Saturday. At the Hyatt, gaming in the Cunningham Room and Films in the Randle Ballroom are open until 2:00 a.m., Thursday through Saturday.

Do you have child care? How much does it cost? Child care is offered by KiddieCorp., a licensed childcare provider. They are located in Room 23 of the Convention Center during regular Exhibit Hall hours. Rates are \$11 per hour for children 3 months to 2 years old, and \$9 per hour for children 3–12 years old.

Where do the shuttle buses go? How late do they run? The shuttle buses can transport you from the Convention Center to your hotel and various other locations along its route (such as Horton Plaza, Ralph’s Grocery, parking lots, banks, restaurants) and back. They run from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. on Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. Friday and

Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

I have a paper cut; where can I get a Band-Aid? The Convention Center First Aid station is located at the south end of the main lobby in Hall C. An EMT is on duty during Exhibit Hall hours.

Why is there no parking? Downtown San Diego is going through some extensive renovations (including the addition of the now-open Petco Park—where, unfortunately, there are Padres games all weekend), which have taken several of the parking lots located around the Convention Center. However, the shuttles stop at several of the available parking lots downtown. See the parking map on this pullout for locations. There is also parking available underneath the Convention Center if you arrive early enough in the morning. You’ll find more parking info on page 4.

Where’s the ATM? In addition to the familiar ATM located next to the escalators in Hall C, additional ATMs can be found in front of Hall D, next to the Starbucks.

Where is the closest bank? There are several bank branches located on Broadway and on B St. in Downtown San Diego, just north of Horton Plaza. These would be the closest to the Convention Center, and are a short walk from the Horton Plaza shuttle stop. Please consult the local Yellow Pages for specific banks and branches.

Where can I get a Comic-Con T-shirt? Comic-Con T-shirts are available at the Con Boutique located in booth #2707 during the Convention only.

I’m tired of carrying all the stuff I brought and the stroller is full. Bag Check is available from the Convention Center for a nominal fee and is located in the Lobby of Halls A and D. If you would like to purchase boxes to ship your items, you can visit the Kinko’s/FexEx, located in the lobbies of Hall A and Hall D.

I lost my wallet—what should I do? Please check with the Show Manager’s office in the Hall C Lobby. If you get home and realize you may have left something at the Convention Center, please contact the Convention Center’s Lost & Found.

Wow, what a scam, how much money does Comic-Con make anyway? Why don’t you let us all in for free? Comic-Con International is a nonprofit educational

organization dedicated to creating awareness of and appreciation for comics and related popular arts forms, primarily through the presentation of conventions and events that celebrate the historic and ongoing contribution of comics to art and culture. All revenues are used to finance various aspects of the show, including convention center rental, security, equipment rentals, shuttle buses, office expenses, and the kinds of things you can’t find at other conventions, such as the art show, the film program, disabled services, the Masquerade, and the dozen programming tracks.

