

Worldcon 75 Fannish Inquisition

Name of bid/convention

Dublin 2019

For what dates are you bidding?

Thursday 15th August to Monday 19th August 2019

What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a central location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city centre? How far is the site from the city centre?

Dublin, Ireland. The Convention Centre (the CCD) is in the centre of town. There is public transport available for those who do not want to or who are unable to walk the 0.9 mile to the heart of the city centre. (Transport is discussed in more detail later in the questionnaire).

Who are the main people on your committee?

The proposed team is as follows:

Chair: James Bacon

Events DH: Helen Montgomery. DDH: John Brown

Exhibits DH: Paul Taylor. DDH: Shana Worthen

Facilitation DH: Esther MacCallum-Stewart. DDH: Clare Boothby, Colette Fozard

Facilities DH: Steve Cooper. DDH: Joyce Lloyd

Finance DH John 'JC' Clarke. DDH: Bruce Farr. Registrar: Lea Farr

Logistics DH: Brian Nisbet. DDH: Patty Wells

Member Services DH: Emma England. DDH Tammy Coxen

Programme: Nchanter. DDH: Ian Stockdale, Erin Underwood

Promotions, Press, Publicity: DH Sara Felix, Vanessa May. DDH Marguerite Smith

WSFS DH: Vince Docherty. Hugo Admins: Nicholas Whyte, Niall Harrison

Advisors: Vince Docherty, Ben Yalow

Travel

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

Helsinki - (Direct), €135, \$159

London - (Direct) €54, \$64 (Stansted), €17, \$20 (Bristol, Manchester and Birmingham)

Boston - (Direct) €444, \$524

Chicago - (Direct) €527, \$622

LA - (Direct) €509, \$601

Melbourne - (1 stop), €882, \$1041

Do international flights 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?

Dublin is a busy international airport.

Pre-Clearance is available for American passport holders.

57 airlines use Dublin Airport. including Aer Lingus, Air France, American Airlines, British Airways, Delta, Flybe.com, KLM, Lufthansa, Norwegian Airlines, RyanAir and United Airlines.

Direct Flights

To the USA: Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Seattle, Washington DC.

To Canada: Montreal, St Johns, Toronto.

To Capital Cities: Amsterdam, Athens, Berlin, Budapest, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Dubrovnik, Istanbul, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Reykjavik, Riga, Rome, Stockholm, Vienna, Vilnius, Warsaw, Zurich

To Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Addis Ababa

Dublin to London (Gatwick, Heathrow, Stansted, London City, Luton, Southend) is the 16th busiest flight route in the world with 91 flights a day.

<http://www.dublinairport.com/gns/flight-information/destinations-airlines/airline-contact-details.aspx>

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

The airport is 8 miles from the CCD.

A bus stop in front of the CCD takes you on Dublin Bus 747 or 757 to Dublin Airport every 15 minutes. The 16 minute trip costs €7 (\$7.60). A return fare €12 (\$13) lasts for 7 days.

Taxi is €20 (\$22) to the airport.

Airport Bus Services information: <http://www.dublinbus.ie/Your-Journey1/Timetables/Airport-Services/>

Please describe public transport options in your city.

Dublin is very accessible by public transport. Buses and trams have low ramps and hydraulically lower themselves for access, wheelchairs are given priority over prams by law, wheelchair accessible taxis are available.

There is a Tram stop 400 yards from the venue (Convention Centre Dublin, CCD) that connects to the two mainline Train stations in Dublin €2.30 (\$2.56), or (€1.70 (\$1.89) with a LEAP card)

Connolly mainline train station is 0.6 miles away (Belfast/Rosslare/Sligo) €6 (\$7.60) in a taxi.

Heuston mainline train station is 2.5 miles (Cork/Limerick/Galway) €10 (\$12.69) in a taxi.

There is a wheelchair accessible taxi rank outside the CCD.

On-street hailing and apps such as Uber and Hailo also operate.

Buses run throughout the night on the Nitelink service.

The LUAS runs until 00.30.

Trams end at midnight.

Facilities

Please describe your main convention facilities.

The CCD is a purpose built facility that comes as a fully serviced and equipped venue as part of its pricing. This includes tech, tech teams, hosts, security and managers who will assist the convention.

The auditorium is a 2,000 seater facility, with seats designed for all day plenaries. We may need more tech for the Hugos but we can source this from anywhere we want to reduce costs. The auditorium is wheelchair accessible from both the bottom level and top level and can be customised for our needs. Wider seats are available, and seating can be removed for extra access. The auditorium uses a boosted induction loop. There is a rising platform to access the auditorium stage as well as steps.

The backstage area is fully accessible and the green room includes wheelchair accessible toilets.

There are a total of 22 meeting rooms, 4 board rooms and 5 offices. The largest room will seat 600+ and can change format as desired.

All meeting rooms have induction loops, projectors, screens, blackout curtains and PA systems fitted as part of the arrangement. We have also seen the rooms when they are being used by large groups and can confirm that there is no sound bleed between them.

The Pub is a 900 sq metre space that will be our hospitality space, while The Forum is a 2,721 sq meter (30,000 sq ft) space which is Truck accessible and will be used for Exhibits.

There are five foyers that can also be used. The foyer on the ground floor will be where Registration is situated.

The CCD is very vertically aligned; there are 3 floors which we expect to be always busy and another two above that. There are continuous escalators going up and down from each floor; each floor has four lifts, and two sets of stairs, and there are also other lifts in the building that we can use to ease access. The lifts on either side of the building are all mobility scooter accessible.

All signs are also in braille, and all meeting rooms have induction loops and black-out blinds. The induction loop in the Auditorium is reinforced.

Unisex toilets are available.

The Loading Bay is wheelchair accessible and provides access to the Auditorium and Forum/ Exhibits area.

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms of what types do you have in your room blocks?

1,100 Rooms in 3 & 4 star hotels, averaging €189 per night, ranging from a low of €159 to a high of €210. We are working to extend the block whilst keeping generally within these parameters.

(This is for 2 people with full Irish Breakfast and all taxes inclusive)

Single occupancy is on average €12 cheaper

We are looking to secure 110 double rooms in apartment complexes near to the CCD at an average rate of €114 per room.

Nearby student accommodation sleeps 250 at an average rate of €78.50 per person bed and breakfast, most in single rooms.

The regulations on accessibility are strict in Ireland and hotels offer a variety to suit different needs.

Examples:

Hilton Garden Inn - Custom House (3 Star)
Single Room with breakfast and tax: €165
Double Room with Breakfast and Tax: €180

The Clayton - Cardiff Lane (4 Star)
Single Room with breakfast and tax: €200
Double Room with Breakfast and Tax: €210

The Gibson (4 Star)
Single Room with breakfast and tax: €165
Double Room with Breakfast and Tax: €175

University Room
Single Room with breakfast and tax: €78.50
Twin Room with breakfast and tax: €123

What are your hotel room rates like?

Examples given in previous question.

What is the distance from the nearest door of your 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?

Hilton Garden Inn is 400 metres, the Clayton Hotel is 600 metres and The Gibson is 850 metres.

Our current hotels rooms average 1.6km (1 miles) from the CCD. But all are generally within 0.6km of the CCD or are within 0.35km of a stop on the LUAS (the network of trams that services the CCD).

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

Selected Restaurants within 500m:

(Options available: Vegan = V, Vegetarian = VG, Gluten Free = GF, Dairy Free = DF, Coeliac = C)

Ferryman Pub - Pub Food and Carvery.

Ely Gastro Bar. Gastropub (VG, GF, DF, some items adaptable for coeliacs)

Herb Street Restaurant Pub Food (VG, V, GF)

Cactus Jacks Mexican (VG, GF, C)

East Restaurant Asian Fusion (VG, GF)

Musashi Noodles and Sushi. (VG)

Milano - Pizza (VG, GF).

MV Cill Airne. Fish, Burgers and Salads (VG, GF)

J2Sushi. Steaks and sushi. (VG, GF)

Eddies Diner (VG)

Many Irish eateries also list potential allergens on their menus.

Both the Temple Bar and St Stephen's areas have extensive eateries for all levels of pricing. See also this useful map for more places in the area, and a more general review site here.

Service (tipping) is either included and will be marked on the bill, or is expected to be about 10-15%, depending on the quality of the meal. Tipping is not expected for drinks or fast food.

Convenience Stores:

Marks and Spencers (high end convenience store): sandwiches, snacks, and salads (some V, VG, GF)

Spar (cheap convenience store): sandwiches, snacks, and salads. (some V, VG, GF).

Fast Food:

La Corte

Broadway Pizza

Eddies Diner

Subway

Munchies

The Swedish Food Company,

Starbucks,

Coffee Angel

The Art of Coffee

The CHQ Building (a multipurpose historic site) has a food court.

We are also talking to the CCD about locating smaller local food sellers in the green space next to the Convention Centre specifically for the con. Previous events have hosted street food and 'farmer's market' type booths, and we hope to replicate this.

The CCD also has its own caterers and has the ability to provide different types, styles, prices and quality snacks, lunches, buffets and dinners. We will continue to discuss options with them going forward.

The Michelin Guide recommends 28 restaurants within a mile of the CCD, the closest being half a mile away.

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

There is an arrangement in place, where for a fee, the CCD will allow parties to bring in alcohol, soft drinks and food to the value of €300/\$375 for €200/\$250 per room. Large rooms can be shared.

Miscellaneous

What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?

The month of August is characterized by daily highs around 64°F (18°C), rarely exceeding 71°F (22°C) or dropping below 59°F (15°C). It is mostly cloudy and many days there will be a light or moderate rainfall. Humidity is between 65 - 90% (although this top end is very unusual).

<https://weatherspark.com/averages/28818/8/Dublin-Leinster-Ireland>

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

Dublin is famous for its hospitality and social scene, as well as a rich literary and cultural history.

The Guinness Brewery and Storehouse

This is Dublin's most popular tourist attraction. Visitors can tour the brewery, find out about the history of Guinness, and sample some of the wares. Exit via the Gift Shop...

Jameson Distillery

Another popular tour, this time of our largest whiskey export!

Trinity College and National Library of Ireland

This houses the Book of Kells and The Long Room was the inspiration for the library in Star Wars Episode 3. It is also possible to stay in Halls at Trinity. The library also has a number of different exhibits each year (recent ones have included Blood!, W.B. Yeats, and the Library has an ongoing commitment to present exhibitions documenting the history of Ireland)

National Museum of Ireland

Three different venues in Dublin explore Natural History, Archeology and Decorative Arts. Current exhibitions focus on the Easter Rising of 1916 and local history.

National Gallery of Ireland

Art included in the collection includes Yeats, Titian, Michelangelo and Picasso.

Temple Bar area

This is a popular area approx 15 mins walk (two stops by tram from behind the CCD) from the CCD, full of bars, places to eat and entertainment. It is also surrounded by a more eclectic shopping area which includes independent and secondhand bookshops, comic shops and alternative clothing stores.

The Dublin Literary Pub Crawl

Several pub crawls and walks are available around Dublin - but this one was voted #4 in the World by The Sunday Times. The walk showcases some of Dublin's best drinking holes as well as the authors that frequented them, including Joyce, Beckett and Yeats.

1916 Easter Rising Coach Tour / The Dublin Ghost Bus / City Sightseeing - Dublin

Several bus rides tour the town, which has also been used for location filming of series such as Penny Dreadful and Ripper Street.

Dublin Zoo / The President's Residence

Phoenix Park is a walled park to the North of the River Liffey housing the zoo, the President's residence, the largest obelisk in Europe and a number of decorative gardens. We

are still not sure whether putting this combination of residences together is a coincidence...

Kilmainham Gaol

A more gristly record of Dublin's history can be found in the gaol, which is one of the largest unoccupied prisons still standing in the world. The tour also explores the city's relationship with conflict and crime throughout the centuries.

Various Cathedrals and Churches

Until recently, Ireland was a profoundly religious country, and this is reflected in the diverse religious buildings that dot the city. You can even shake hands with a Mummy in St Michans!.

Dublin also provides easy access to the nearby countryside, and the Irish countryside is renowned for its beauty. Local attractions include Tayto Park, a theme park devoted to one of Ireland's greatest loves, the crisp (potato chip), and the Boyne Valley, site of both the Battle of the Boyne, and a number of Celtic tombs and cairns.

The Skellig Isles were used in the climactic scene at the end of The Force Awakens, and several parts of Game of Thrones have been filmed here. Ireland is well known for it's beautiful, evocative countryside and has featured in many science fiction and fantasy movies and TV series.

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

Yes.

Should you win, do you plan to charge an additional fee for receiving paper publications?

Paper publications are €10 to cover PR updates, but are available at no extra charge if needed for Access. The souvenir book is part of membership.
