

Questionnaire Instructions

The questionnaire below includes some of the most commonly asked questions at a Fannish Inquisition. Please email the completed answers to stephen@boucher.org. We will post the answers on the Smofcon website, and will have printed copies available at Smofcon for review.

Please answer all the questions *in line* below. If a question doesn't apply to your convention please state: N/A.

If the answer won't be known until some future date, please provide an estimate of when you'll be in a position to answer. For example, for the question about room rates you might answer "These are expected to be agreed by [date]. Current internet rates are X per night room only for a double or twin and Y for single occupancy."

The Inquisition

All Smofcon members will be able to submit questions for the Inquisition in person at Smofcon prior to the Inquisition. Submissions will be anonymous. *All submitted questions will be edited to remove any personal attacks.* We will encourage questions to be hard, but we will not permit them to be insulting.

We will follow the general format that has been used recently. The Inquisition will be moderated by Stephen Boucher and Elizabeth McCarty. They will be asking all of the questions submitted to the Inquisition.

The focus of the FI will be seated Worldcons and announced Worldcon bids (a bid which has formally announced its committee, year, and site and which is actively bidding.) Other bids will be given a brief opportunity to introduce themselves.

We intend to be aggressive at sticking to schedule. Don't make us yank you from the stage! We will allow A/V presentations from the seated Worldcons and announced bidders only. Time spent messing around with tech will count against your limit, so make sure to meet with us in advance to ready your presentation.

There will be a single, approximately 2-hour session on Saturday evening

- Review the Rules of Engagement and introduce the Inquisitors (5 minutes)
- 5 minute presentations followed by 5 minute audience Q&A for the 2019 and 2020 seated Worldcons (20 minutes)
- Smofcon Selection
 - 2 minute presentations by future Smofcon bids (~10 minutes)
 - Short time for questions from the floor
 - Smofcon site selection vote (~10 minutes)
- 7 minute presentations by announced 2021 and 2022 Worldcon Bids (15 minutes)
- 2 minute presentations by unannounced and later Worldcon bids and any Hoax bids (~ 30 minutes)
- Break
 - 5 minutes for Audience to write and submit additional questions
 - 5 minutes for Inquisitors to review and incorporate questions
- Inquisition (until end of allotted session time or we run out of questions)

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

- Name of Bid:
A: Worldcon in France 2023
- Person(s) Smofcon should contact about this questionnaire and about the Fannish Inquisition at Smofcon 35 (*including email address*):
A: Alex Garcia / contact@worldconinfrance.org
- What dates are you bidding for?
A: 2-6 August 2023
- What is your proposed 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?
A: Nice, in the south of France. The convention site is in the city center.
- What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?
A: The convention would be held at the Acropolis, in the heart of the city, with many hotels within walking distance. It is also very close to the old town and easily accessible by public transportation (buses and trams).
- Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?
A: Our team is currently in the process of being restructured with many new members having recently joined. We do not yet have a bid chair per se at this stage, though we expect to have one within the coming months.
The founding members have been active in the French fandom for several decades -- including editors, writers, translators, many with past or current experience running local conventions and festivals. Recent additions include the chair of one of the largest French "geek" festivals (Play Azur, which is held in Nice) as well as many international friends with past Worldcon experience.
- If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?
A: This has not yet been determined.
- Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?
A: To be determined.

Travel

- What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Melbourne?
A: Nice offers flights to many destinations around the world. Here are some sample rates, calculated on the basis of a roundtrip ticket for 2 passengers. These numbers assume booking the flight a year in advance.
Boston: from 2012€
Chicago: from 2943€
London: from 358€

Los Angeles: from 2234€

Melbourne: from 3823€

Rates above were obtained from skyscanner.fr and were valid on August 1st, 2018. Better fares may be available from a source closer to you.

- 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?

A: Nice has the country's second busiest international airport, but also offers many domestic flights. It is serviced by many airline companies, including Air Berlin, Air France, British Airways, Delta, Emirates, Lufthansa and Vueling.

See here for a more complete listing: <http://www.nice-airport.net/airlines.php>

From the list above, only London has direct flights into Nice. However, over 100 other cities also have direct flights, including Helsinki, Dublin, New York, Amsterdam, Belfast, Berlin, Kiev, Liverpool, Manchester, Milan, Montreal, Moscow, Munich, Stockholm and Zurich.

A full list is available here: <http://en.nice.aeroport.fr/Passengers/TRAVELS/More-than-100-destinations-from-Nice>

- 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?

A: From airport to convention (20 to 40 minutes, depending on traffic and type of transport)

1. by taxi: about 40€

2. by bus: 1,50€ for the city bus, or 6€ with the airport shuttle

3. by tram: 1,50€ (and ~10-15 minutes as the tram won't have to deal with traffic)

From train station to convention (10 minutes by tram)

1. by taxi: about 20 €

2. by bus or tram: 1,50 €

Above rates subject to change, but valid as of November 27, 2018.

Facilities

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

A: We only recently started looking into hotels and so should start having some information on this in the near future.

That said, it should be noted that Nice does offer a large selection of hotels, with some 10 000 rooms. More specifically, there are 13 hotels within 1 km of the Acropolis, covering some 1300 rooms. Many more are within a few extra meters while others can very easily be accessed by public transportation.

- What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet in the room? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?

A: We do not have any rates available yet for our selected dates. However, to give some idea of what to expect, rates for early August 2017, in the hotels closest to the convention center, ranged between 87€ and 200€ for a double room. These are based on displayed rates on hotel websites and may or may not include breakfast, depending on the establishment.

As for internet access, though free wifi is commonly offered by French hotels, this is not necessarily systematic. But we will provide this information in the coming months.

- What does parking cost at your main hotels?

A: This will be communicated as soon as we release hotel information.

- 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?
A: There are many hotels within walking distance from the convention center, the closest being the Relais Acropolis, about 120 meters (400 feet) from the entrance of the Acropolis. As for accessibility, both tram and bus lines are fully equipped to handle those with mobility difficulties (as are the Acropolis and most hotels).
- Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?
A: We plan to hold these in the largest of the three auditoriums of the Acropolis, which can accommodate up to 2500 people.
- Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.
A: There are many restaurants within walking distance of the convention center, including in the old town, covering a wide variety of world cuisine. More information about this will be provided at a later time.
- What arrangements will be made for evening socializing and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?
A: To be determined.
- Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention center, and city.
A: As a general rule, it is forbidden to smoke indoors in public places. Some establishments, however, do have special spaces reserved for smokers.

Miscellaneous

- What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?
A: Temperatures, in August, can range (on average) from 18°C (64°F) at night to 28°C (82°F) during the day. There is very little rain in this season, typically only 4 days for the whole month. Sky is sunny and water warm and pleasant (23°C/73°F), perfect for swimming.
- What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?
A: Museums (Matisse, Chagall, modern and contemporary art, etc.), beaches, Greek and Roman ruins, an observatory, the famous Promenade des Anglais and, of course, the very typical old town. There is also a Russian Orthodox Cathedral that is a popular tourist attraction.
- Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?
A: To be determined.
- Do you have a code of conduct?
A: To be determined.