

# Orlando 2023 NASFiC Bid FAQ

## General

**Name of Convention: Orlando 2023 NASFiC Bid**

**What dates will your convention run?**

August 3-6, 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?**

Orlando, FL. Our convention site is in an area called "International Drive". It's one of the main tourist areas of the Orlando area featuring dozens and dozens of attractions, restaurants, and entertainment options. It's located about 15 miles from downtown Orlando.

**What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?**

Our facility is the Hilton Orlando, which is our main and only venue.

**Who is your convention chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running NASFiCs?**

Our committee consists of: Adam Beaton, Chris Barkley, Judy Bemis, Gary Blog, Pam Burr, Donald Eastlake, Jill Eastlake, Colette Fozard, Rivka Gates, Nate Hoffelder, Evergreen Lee, Samuel Lubell, Juan Sanmiguel, and Mike Willmoth. We have a blend of new folks to the bidding process, as well as folks who have been working on and running local conventions, Worldcons, and NASFiCs at a high level for many years.

## Travel

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

London: \$628

Boston: \$156  
Los Angeles: \$232  
Tokyo: \$1332  
Melbourne: \$2838

It should also be noted that travel deals to Orlando happen on a frequent basis.

**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?**

Domestically, you can fly directly to Orlando from 94 different American cities. Internationally, you can fly directly to Orlando from cities such as London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Dublin, Belfast, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Oslo, Reykjavik, Dubai, Sao Paulo, Brasilia, Lima, Bogota, Panama City, Mexico City, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, and Winnipeg.

You can view the full list of domestic locations and airlines here:

<https://www.orlandoairports.net/flights/us-service/>

You can view the full list of international locations and airlines here:

<https://www.orlandoairports.net/flights/international-service/>

**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?**

The Hilton Orlando is about 13 miles from the Orlando airport. Public transportation via the LYNX Bus system would cost \$2 via the #111 or #42 LYNX Bus. Uber, Lyft, or a taxi would cost about \$45. A group can reserve a Mears Super Shuttle van for about \$65. Orlando is also the largest rental car market in the world with over a dozen rental companies directly on airport property. If you're travelling to Orlando via Amtrak, you'll be about 12.5 miles from the Hilton Orlando. Via public transportation, you could take the SunRail commuter rail to LYNX Central Station and then take the #350 LYNX Bus to the Hilton, a total cost of \$4.

## Facilities

**What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, do they accommodate accessibility needs, etc.?**

We've contracted 625 rooms on peak nights at the Hilton Orlando. That number includes ADA-accessible rooms with amenities such as roll-in showers, closed captioning TVs, wider bedroom doors, visual alarms for the hearing impaired, and easier to access beds.

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

Our room rate is firm at \$169/night single-to-quad. The rate includes in-room internet and does not include the 6% resort tax and 6.5% sales tax on all Orlando hotel rooms.

**What does parking cost at your main hotels?**

Self-parking in the Hilton parking garage is \$30/night. Valet parking is \$40/night.

**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?**

The Hilton Orlando will have all sleeping rooms and function space under one air-conditioned roof.

**Where will your large events be held?**

We will be using the 28,000 square foot (2601 square meter) Orange Ballroom for our large events such as the Masquerade.

**Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.**

The International Drive area boasts a veritable melting pot of over one hundred outstanding eateries representing different world cuisines such as Indian, Italian, Mediterranean, Mexican, Caribbean, Chinese, Japanese, Cuban, Brazilian and Thai, as well as authentic English and Irish pubs, American steakhouses, pizza joints, and seafood eateries. We have negotiated with the Hilton Orlando for every NASFiC member to receive two complimentary tickets every day for the I-RIDE Trolley public transportation system, allowing you to avoid having to walk to any of the restaurants or attractions on International Drive.

For a full list of all International Drive restaurants, [click here](#).

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

The Hilton Orlando is allowing us access to their suites for evening socializing and parties. They

are allowing us to bring outside food and beverages into the hotel.

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

Smoking is not permitted inside any public building in Orlando with the exception of any stand-alone bars that were grandfathered in prior to the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act.

**Given the current pandemic, have you considered any arrangements have been made for social distancing and the health and safety of members? If you have, can you describe what your current plans are?**

Should conditions not improve between now and August 2023, we are planning on having similar requirements other conventions have had such as masks and proof of COVID vaccination.

## Miscellaneous

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

It's Florida. In the summer. Generally our high temperature hits about 92F/33C with our low at 75F/24C. The average humidity is 75%. It generally rains for about ten minutes every day in the afternoon during Orlando summers. We've made sure, however, that the indoor temperature will be air-conditioned and all under one roof.

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

We won't take up too much of your time here. Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, SeaWorld Orlando, the Kennedy Space Center, Orlando Science Center, Gatorland, Legoland Florida, WonderWorks, ICON Park, Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando Museum of Art, Ripley's Believe it or Not! Orlando, Fun Spot America, Madame Tussauds, Old Town Kissimmee, Bok Tower Gardens are just a few things you can experience down here.

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

We plan on a Young Adult membership, and we are working on creating a fund for underrepresented groups in the same spirit that other conventions have such as the Capitalize! Fund from DisCon III and the Chicago Worldcon Community Fund from Chicon 8.

## **What is your vision for your NASFiC? How do you plan to make it happen?**

Orlando sits between two very different worlds, the American South and the Caribbean. We'd like to showcase both those worlds for the community should they choose Orlando to host the NASFiC. We'll be pulling from both worlds to provide a very unique NASFiC experience for you.

## **What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your NASFiC?**

Our local sf con, OASIS, has a chili-cookoff every year with the con. We'd like to do that at our NASFiC for everyone.

## **Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?**

Our full code of conduct can be found here: <https://orlandoin2023.org/code-of-conduct/>

## **What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?**

Diversity and inclusion are two interconnected concepts but not interchangeable. Diversity is about representation or the make-up of an entity. Inclusion is about how well the contributions, presence and perspectives of different groups of people are valued and integrated into an environment.

An environment where many different genders, races, nationalities, and sexual orientations and identities are present but only the perspectives of certain groups are valued or carry any authority or influence, may be diverse, but it is not inclusive.

The difference between diversity and inclusion is that diversity is the representation of different people in an organization while inclusion is ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to and influence every part and level of an organization.

## **How are you working towards your goals in these areas?**

### **What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?**

We are being pro-active in both welcoming all voices to the table as well as listening to those voices that have not been heard and under-represented in our community. An inclusive convention doesn't just have a diversity of people present, it has a diversity of people involved, developed, and empowered by both the convention and the community.

We also must acknowledge that, as much as we may strive for total diversity and inclusion of all voices, as human beings we may fall short of that goal.

**What changes or challenges do you expect the current pandemic to present?**

We've attended quite a few conventions in bidding for this NASFiC, and we believe keeping everyone safe and healthy will be the biggest challenge. There are some in our community who feel strongly on issues like masking and being vaccinated from COVID. It will be our job to make sure our policies follow both local laws and CDC guidance together.

**Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?**

We are fully intending to have a robust virtual component to our NASFiC.

**Are you prepared to run a NASFiC site selection process if the Glasgow 2024 Worldcon bid is successful?**

Absolutely, yes.