

and its duration, the aftermath — the Comic-Con hang over — leaves you in a “Walking Dead” state for several days after. Still — most attendees will agree the pain is justified.

Every year upon entering the event, Comic-Conites make it a priority to pre-register for passes to the following year. Though we're a long ways from knowing anything about the schedule for Comic-Con 2012 — set for July 12–15, many spectators are adamant about not being left without those hard to get passes — despite the time they had to sacrifice to miss some of this years events. Every minute counts at Comic-Con. Time spent doing one activity always puts you further back in line for something else of equal interest; often times resulting in missing a panel or autograph signing completely.

**View slideshow: [Comic-Con International 2011](http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/comic-con-international-2011) (<http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/comic-con-international-2011>)**



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The convention center main entrance.

Photo credit: Jasmine Rios

Passes for 2012 have new prices. Four-day adult passes with Preview Night are now \$175 a piece. Passes without Preview Night are \$150 a piece. Single-day passes (Thursday - Saturday) are \$40 and Sunday passes are now \$23. More four-day and single day passes will go on sale online starting in the Fall. At a later date, it will be announced whether any remaining four-day passes with Preview Night will be sold.

Jammed with spectators after free swag on all four days, Thursday, July 21 - Sunday, July 24, the central part of the Exhibit Hall was a claustrophobic nightmare. Pushing and shoving was common during some giveaways and autograph signings. And waited in line for free swag — sometimes for hours, was a worthwhile effort to some. Flight bags promoting the new ABC series in September — “Pan Am” featuring Christina Ricci, were especially popular. Although many waiting in line left empty-handed; those were very unhappy campers.

Time and space in Ballroom 20 — the second largest facility at the convention center, were major issues this year. Due to the overwhelming popularity of several [television](http://www.examiner.com/topic/television) series' and the back to back scheduling of these shows, many disappointed spectators didn't make it inside to see their favorite panels.

Among the most popular panels on Thursday, July 21 in Ballroom 20 were “[Dexter](http://www.sho.com/site/dexter/home.do),” “[Shameless](http://www.sho.com/site/shameless/home.do),” “[Game of Thrones](http://www.hbo.com/game-of-thrones/index.html),” “[Burn Notice](http://www.usanetwork.com/series/burnnotice/),” and [TV](http://www.examiner.com/tv) Guide Fan Favorites from various shows including Matt Smith from “[Doctor Who](http://www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho/dw).”

Friday's fierce line-up attracted thousands. By 8am, the line grew to over 9,000 people for the 4,000 plus capacity space. Among the most popular panels on this day were “[Torchwood](http://www.amctv.com/shows/the-walking-dead/episodes/season-1/days-gone-bye),” “[The Walking Dead](http://www.amctv.com/shows/the-walking-dead/episodes/season-1/days-gone-bye),” “[The Big Bang Theory](http://www.cbs.com/primetime/big_bang_theory/),” and “[True Blood](http://www.hbo.com/true-blood).”