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## Facts Comic-Con Newcomers Should Know

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Inside the San Diego Convention Center during Comic-Con International.

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Photo by Jasmine Rios

It's easy to get caught up in the surreality of going to Comic-Con -- especially if you're a newcomer. To ensure you make the best of your visit, get real now. Firm-up your travel plans.

The first priority is to book your hotel. But be advised that [Comic-Con \(http://www.comic-con.org/ccil/\)](http://www.comic-con.org/ccil/) has posted an important alert on their homepage about hotel bookings. It says, "... a company identifying itself as Elite Locations is advertising that it can book local hotel rooms during Comic-Con..... Comic-Con is not affiliated with Elite Locations in any manner." Instead, contact hotels directly or use a travel agent. Comic-Con travel planners are also available to help at 1-877-552-6642. They can tell you more about the twenty-four hotels offering a free shuttle service to and from Comic-Con.

Currently, hotel room availability from July 21 - 25 is moderate, but this won't last. Room rates are gradually increasing. Deposits are also required. Average rates are about \$200 per night. Although some hotels are already charging up to \$600 per night.

If you happen to need child care, believe it or not, it's available at Comic-Con. Just remember to pre-register by June 24.

Be prepared for a few harsh realities at Comic-Con. Many popular events take place simultaneously and in opposite parts of the complex. And get ready to "Walk the Line" all day because it takes over two hours to get into most events.

A visit to the restroom before you get in any line is advised. Some people have been accused of cutting upon their return.

Autograph lines have increased enormously in recent years. Now, attendees must enter a drawing to get a line ticket.

The line to be most aware of is for Hall H. Inside this massive hall, some of Hollywood's most prominent filmmakers and celebrities have appeared such as Peter Jackson, Tim Burton, and Johnny Depp. It's