

Nice 2023 - A Worldcon in France

- Who is your point of contact at this convention?
Bastien Vergoni
bastien.vergoni@playazur.fr
- Do you have an email address (and/or other social media or messaging inboxes) to receive questions? What response time can people expect?
contact@worldconinfrance.org
- What City/Country are you bidding/hosting in?
Nice, France.
- What dates are you bidding?
2-6 August 2023

About Us

- Who is leading your committee?
Bastien Vergoni
bastien.vergoni@playazur.fr
- Tell us about your committee's prior convention experience.
Committee 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.
Our current chair runs one of the largest French "geek" festivals (Play Azur, which is held in Nice) and we also have in our team many international friends with past Worldcon experience.
- Operating a Worldcon is a complicated business proposition. What business structure or organization have you formed to support hosting/sponsoring your convention?
The Nice 2023 bid is being lead by the Worldcon in France non-profit organization.

Location Information

- Is your venue in a city center or a suburban location?
The Acropolis venue is located at the heart of Nice, within a 5 minute walk of the Old City and a 10 minute walk of the city's main street (avenue Jean Médecin).

- Travel to your host city

- What Airport (or airports) serve your host city?

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>

- Please provide rough estimates of flight costs into your airports.

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.

Auckland	1992€	\$2229	£1836	3275 AUD
Boston	1304€	\$1459	£1202	2144 AUD
Chicago	1592€	\$1782	£1468	2617 AUD
Dallas	2776€	\$3107	£2559	4564 AUD
Dublin	216€	\$242	£199	355 AUD
Helsinki	308€	\$345	£284	506 AUD
London	198€	\$222	£183	326 AUD
Los Angeles	1642€	\$1838	£1514	2700 AUD
Melbourne	1678€	\$1878	£1547	2759 AUD

Rates above were obtained from skyscanner.fr and were valid as of August 8, 2019.

Better fares may be available from a source closer to you.

Exchange rates obtained from xe.com and valid as of August 8, 2019.

- What other transport options serve your city? Trains? Bus service?

There are three train stations in Nice, with a direct tram line connecting the main one to the convention venue. We also have a port, which can only take in small boats. Closest stops for cruise lines would be Monaco, Marseille or the Italian cities of Savona and Genoa. From there, a train would be the easiest and quickest way to reach Nice.

A number of bus lines are also available, depending on your city of departure.

- International attendees

- Do your airports offer nonstop international flights?

Over 100 cities have direct flights into Nice, including Dublin, Helsinki, London, 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>

- Does your country (at the time of publishing) participate in any visa waiver programs?

Waivers are available for a number of countries, including members of the European Union, Switzerland and the United States. More information can be found here:

https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/short-stay-visa

A full list of countries that enjoy the visa waiver can be found toward the bottom of this PDF document (Annex II, p. 16-17):

[https://france-](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/documents/66002/47558374/reglement+CE+2018-1806+EN.pdf)

[visas.gouv.fr/documents/66002/47558374/reglement+CE+2018-1806+EN.pdf](https://france-visas.gouv.fr/documents/66002/47558374/reglement+CE+2018-1806+EN.pdf)

- Where can international attendees find customs, immigration and/or visa information about coming to your country?

Information can be found on this French government page:

https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/tourist-or-private-visit

- Travel in your host city

- How do attendees get from your airports, train stations and/or bus stops to the convention area?

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 August 8, 2019.

- What mass-transit options are available in your city? Are there weekly pass options to make transit easier for attendees?

Day and weekly passes are both available, and valid on both buses and trams.

- What apps are available for taxi and/or ride-sharing services in your city?
Uber is available in Nice.
- For people who have or rent cars, what is your city's parking and traffic situation?
Nice is the 5th largest city in the country. As such, parking and traffic can both be difficult. Traffic has been improved however since the introduction of the tram lines. Parking, however, remains an issue. There are paying solutions available, though, such as the underground Parking Mozart or the Parking Gare Thiers with its multiple stories.
- What accessible transit options exist?
Bus and tram lines are available, as well as bikes and electric cars for rent.
- Weather in your host city
 - What average high and low temperatures can attendees expect (C and F both, please)?
Temperatures, in August, can range (on average) from 18°C (64°F) at night to 28°C (82°F) during the day.
 - What average humidity and precipitation chances can attendees expect in your city?
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.
 - Is there anything about your weather that would surprise many attendees?
If climate change doesn't mess things up, there should not be any surprises. Summer weather in Nice is very similar to California in the same season.
- Eating and drinking in your host city
 - What is the restaurant scene, particularly surrounding your facilities?
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.
 - How do restaurants in your area accommodate allergies and dietary restrictions?
Most restaurants will honor such restrictions if they are made known to the waiter.
 - What is the nightlife scene, particularly surrounding your facilities?

Nice is a very busy city, even more so during the summer, with an active nightlife. There are many night clubs, restaurants and bars that stay open late.

- Tourist attractions in or near your host city
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.

Convention facilities

- Convention facilities
 - What facilities are you planning to use for convention exhibits, program and events?

The convention will be held at the Acropolis.
 - Has your organization used this space before?

Our current chair, Bastien Vergoni, has used it for his Play Azur festival, which has been held at the Acropolis for 3 years so far.
 - What other conventions similar to your convention in content and/or capacity does your facility host? Have you attended any of them?

There are a wide variety of conventions and festivals held at the Acropolis, including the geek festival Play Azur.
 - What spaces are you planning to use for major events (Hugo Award Ceremony, Masquerade)? What is the size, layout and seating capacity?

We plan to hold these in the largest of the three auditoriums of the Acropolis, which can accommodate up to 2500 people.
 - What spaces are you planning to use for exhibits (Dealers, Art Show, Fixed Exhibits)? What is the size and layout of the spaces?

Different areas will be used for these.

Total surface of 9,000 square meters (96,000 square feet) is available (without counting our 3 auditoriums).

Up to 12 000 square meters (130,000 square feet) available in a second building if needed.

So we plan to use
 - How many rooms do you plan to allocate to programming? What are their capacity ranges?

We plan to use 16 rooms with capacities ranging from 30 to 750 people (Without counting our main scene of 2500 places).
 - Does your facility provide internet access? Have you reviewed the convention facility's internet services under load?

Yes, there is a strong WIFI in the convention center.
 - Does your facility provide gender-neutral toilets (restrooms)?

Details will be provided at a later time.

- Housing facilities

- What hotels do you currently have under contract?

We have already pre-booked around 1 000 rooms (twin and double) in 40 different hotel (from 2* to 4*).

- How close are your contracted hotels to your convention center?

Nice offers a large selection of hotels, with some 10 000+ rooms. More specifically, there are 13 hotels within 400m 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.

- Please provide a breakdown of room block sizes and composition in your contracted hotels.

We have already pre-booked around 1 000 rooms (twin and double) in 40 different hotel (from 2* to 4*).

More details coming soon.

- What are your hotel rates? Does this include all taxes?

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.

Also note that hotel rates in France typically do not include the city tax which varies from city to city. In Nice, it is currently set to 1,50€ per person and per night and is to be paid at the hotel directly, either at check-in or at check-out, depending on the establishment. Note that the city tax is periodically increased and is thus likely to change by the time of the convention.

- Do your contracted hotels include internet access for guests?

Free wifi is commonly offered by French hotels, though this is not necessarily systematic.

- Do your contracted hotels include breakfast?

This can vary depending on the establishment, as noted above.

- Have you contracted all the sleeping rooms and function space in any of your hotels?

We are still working on this.

- Are you negotiating with or planning to negotiate with other hotels (you don't have to name them) to increase your room block?

Everything hotel-related is still being negotiated.

- Are you required to make a minimum room block, or is your housing “courtesy blocks?” Will people booking outside your blocks harm the convention’s financial stability?

No

- Party facilities

- What space are you planning to make available for parties?
There are up to 7 rooms available and independent on the 2nd floor. They are between 60 and 140 square meters.
- Will party hosts have to use caterers authorized by the space? Will party hosts be able to bring in their own food and/or drink?
Party organizers will have to go through the convention hall caterers but will be able to bring their own food if it is not available through the convention center.
- Are party hosts allowed to serve alcohol? Where can party hosts learn about alcohol service regulations and facilities policies?
Yes. In France, alcohol can be drink by people over 18 years old.

- Accessibility

- Has your access team reviewed your facilities for mobility device access? For access services for the blind? For access services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing?
The Acropolis fully equipped to handle those with mobility difficulties.
- Does your facility provide ramps and/or lifts for event and program stages?
Yes.
- Do your facilities host any access-focused events, and, if so, can you tell us about these events and how the space works with them?
This is unknown at this stage.
- How do your hotels accommodate allergies?
To be determined. Though in general it should be similar to restaurants (honored if informed).

Our Mission

- In one short paragraph, please explain what your team is attempting to bring to this convention.

Our goals are simple:

1. Bring Worldcon to France. This is long overdue.
2. Expose more French fans to Worldcon. Long overdue as well!
3. Bring a French touch to Worldcon.
4. Expose international fans to more modern French SF creators.

- How are you fostering member safety?
 - Is your code of conduct and implementation process published?
 - If not, what are your member safety plans?

We are working on that but of course we will have a code of conduct and implementation process.

- How are you fostering diversity?
 - What is your diversity plan for volunteer recruiting?
 - What is your diversity plan for programming?
 - Do you have a diversity plan for Guests of Honor?
 - Have you looked into your police department's record with minority and marginalized communities?

To be determined.

- How are you fostering accessibility?
 - Does your access team include people who need access services?

It is still too early for us to have such a team in place.
 - Does your committee include people who need access services?

Not at this time. But of course we welcome everyone and if such individuals do join us we will look at how to best accomodate their needs.

- How are you engaging your local community?
 - What is your plan for recruiting local volunteers?
 - What is your plan to reach out to local fans and program participants?
 - What local arts, educational and/or charity organizations do you plan to reach out to?

We are already in touch with a lot of local and national organization in SF, Fantastique, Geek world, Science world and education. They are all interested and support us. We want to integrate all the good will into our project.

- What are you doing to engage young fans and families with children?
 - What age-related policies and restrictions have you put in place (or are required

to put in place) that apply to young fans?

- What are your plans to handle childcare needs?
To be determined.

- Are you planning any membership discounts/rates?
To be determined.

- What attendance level are you expecting for your convention? How are you calculating this estimate?
Recent European Worldcons (London, Helsinki and Dublin) received between 6000 and 8000 attendees. We are expecting similar numbers in Nice.