



San Diego Comic-Con 2016

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE



Bucket ListEvents

Conventions like this are becoming more popular all over the country. But at Comic Con, this is where it started (for a lot of people). This year's convention will be held at the San Diego Convention Center, this Summer July 21–24.

Sound like a ways away, doesn't it? It's not. In fact, it's just around the corner. If you want to attend this year's Comic-Con, start preparing for it. As in...start preparing for it right now.

Over 150,000 people are expected to attend this year. For many of them, this is the highlight of their year. I know it will be mine.

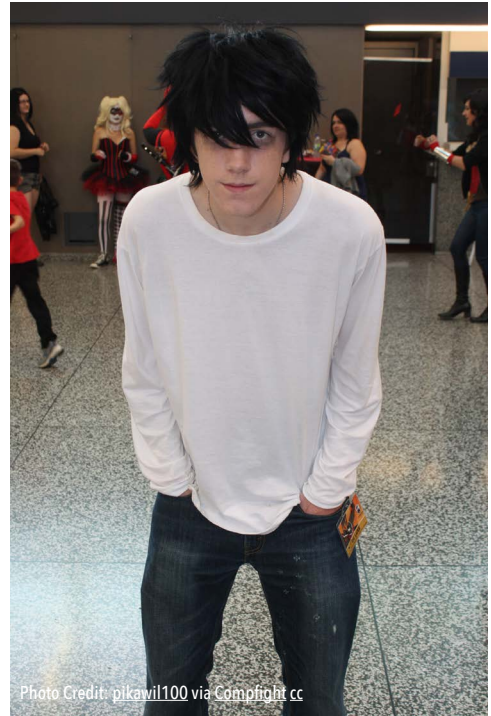


Photo Credit: pikawil100 via Compfight cc



Photo Credit: Gage Skidmore via Compfight cc

VISIT MYBUCKETLISTEVENTS.COM TO START CHECKING EVENTS OFF YOUR BUCKET LIST.



Guide to Hotels

The first thing you need is a place to crash. Reserve your hotel as soon as you even think that you might be going. You won't be able to find a room if you wait until you arrive. Reserve your room now, even if you don't end up using it – at least, you'll have a reservation on hand.



Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina

333 W Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101

Price Range: From \$220

HotelPlanner Rating: 4.0 out of 5

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

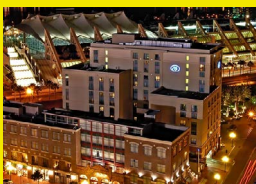
Horton Grand Hotel

311 Island Ave., San Diego, CA 92101

Price Range: From \$129

HotelPlanner Rating: 4.0 out of 5

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter

401 K St., San Diego, CA 92101

Price Range: From \$275

HotelPlanner Rating: 4.0 out of 5

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego

1 Market Place, San Diego, CA 92101

Price Range: From \$209

HotelPlanner Rating: 4.5 out of 5

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



The Hard Rock Hotel San Diego

207 5th Ave., San Diego, CA 92101

Price Range: From \$114

HotelPlanner Rating: 4.5 out of 5

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

Guide to Panels



The following list of special guests will be appearing in person at Comic-Con International 2016, to be held July 21–24 at the San Diego Convention Center. No panel information has been published. The panel schedule is usually posted 48 hours before the start of the event.

Jason Aaron – Writer, Scalped, Star Wars, Thor

Kate Beaton – Writer/artist, Step Aside, Pops; Hark! A Vagrant!

Howard Chaykin – Writer/artist, American Flagg!, Star Wars

Daniel Clowes – Writer/artist, Eightball, Ghost World, Patience

Kieron Gillen – Writer, co-creator, Phonogram, The Wicked + The Divine

Paul Gulacy – Artist, Master of Kung Fu, Six from Sirius, Catwoman

Jamie McKelvie – Artist, Phonogram, The Wicked + The Divine

Patrick Rothfuss – Author, The Name of the Wind, The Wise Man's Fear

Brian Selznick – Author/illustrator, Wonderstruck, The Marvels

Jeff Smith – Cartoonist, Bone, RASL, Tuki Save the Humans

Noelle Stevenson – Writer/artist, Nimona; co-writer, Lumberjanes

BabsTarr – Artist, Batgirl

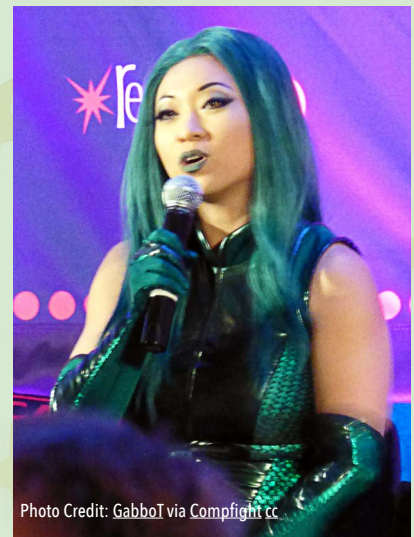


Photo Credit: GabboT via Compfight cc



Photo Credit: Gage Skidmore via Compfight cc

Guide to Things to Do.



As of January 2016, no events have been confirmed. The schedule of events is usually published 48 hours before the start of the event. When you're at the con, you won't be left starving. There are so many things to do, you might be surprised. Look at it this way. They are not going to leave 150,000 people without anything to do for three days. Once you've got your badge, all of it is game.

You just have to plan your day.

Panels from Comic-Con 2015

This list of panels should give you an idea of what to expect at Comic-Con 2016. These are just a few of the panels that people went out of their way to attend in 2015.

- **The Science of Star Wars**
- **Doctor Who**
- **Con Man**
- **The 100 The Man in the High Castle**
- **Minority Report pilot screening**
- **Orphan Black**
- **Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. and Agent Carter**
- **Heroes Reborn**
- **The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt 2**
- **An Afternoon with Joss Whedon**
- **The Walking Dead**
- **Fear the Walking Dead**
- **Game of Thrones**
- **Warner Bros. Superhero Night**
- **Star Wars: The Force Awakens**
- **X-Men: Apocalypse and Deadpool(?)**
- **Batman v Superman**



Every single panel invoked a power discussion about the ethereal world we see in movies, television, video games and more. When you get your schedule for this year's con, take some time to plan which panels you wish to attend. Without this game plan, you'll be wondering around for a few days, wondering what to do next, but not every doing anything. Trust me. It happens every year.

Guide to Getting Tickets.



If you intend on attending to Comic Con 2016, you need to get a Member ID first by clicking [here](#) and applying for one. Once you have a Member ID, it is yours for life, making it much easier to purchase tickets for future Comic-Con events.

The Member ID is free and is required to buy a badge. Your badge is your “ticket” to everything in the con. As long as you have your badge with you, you can attend any area of the convention.

As of January 2016, no prices have been set and badges are not on sale yet.

You can't pick your days around particular events because the schedule is never finalized until about two weeks before the con. But there are patterns:

- **Wednesday/Preview Night usually has one or two screenings and not much else.**
- **Friday and Saturday events are the most popular.**
- **The convention floor is packed on Saturday.**
- **Friday is usually filled with Star Wars events.**
- **Sunday has fewer events but also has a lot of kid-friendly programming.**
- **Don't be afraid to skip a day when buying tickets. Between off-site panels and unrelated attractions (zoo, museums, harbor, etc.), you'll find something to do.**

If you have the time, make it a vacation by taking the whole week off.



Cosplay/Costume Ideas



There's an unwritten code when it comes to cosplaying. Go all out or don't go at all.

That's not to say that you can't attend, but don't slap a costume together at the last minute.

Cosplayers put forth months of planning and preparation to prepare their outfit. This is not Halloween where you can just buy a premade costume and have it pass.

Everything is custom-made. Every piece. Every detail. If you're going to wear a costume, follow the rules of cosplay. Make your own costume. Put some effort into it. Make it genuine.

If you want an idea about how to cosplay, check out BuzzFeed's Try Guy videos. The Try Guys are a band of four guys from BuzzFeed, who, quite literally, try new things. One of the things they tried is cosplaying. As someone who cosplays every year, I can easily tell if you, or anyone else for that matter, put in any effort into your costume. The Try Guys had some help, but it turned into a full-time job for them for three months straight. They did a gender swap of Sailor Moon. They pulled it off. It was awesome.

Cosplayers plan for months and put in thousands of hours into making their costumes. The Try Guys did it, but it took them three months, full time, every day, day in and day out.

Check out their cosplaying videos [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). Watch them in order, [one](#), [two](#), then [three](#). This will give you an idea of what it takes to cosplay. Now, for ideas?



Anything is game.

I mean it. ANYTHING. Be creative. Be the main character from your favorite tv show, anime or comic book. Be a side character. Be whoever you want to be. Think of it this way. Someone is BOUND to recognize your character, no matter who you choose.

Here's an example.

The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, the original series, was a show that aired in the early 1990s. In the show, there was a character who acted as an ethereal guide to the Power Rangers. He was nothing but a head in a tube.



Photo Credit: W10002 via Compfight cc



Photo Credit: Kay Pike Fashion via Compfight cc

He was not the main character. He was not a Power Ranger, nor was he an enemy. He got hardly any screen time but still made an impression on our minds. His name was Zordon.

► [Here is a picture of what he looked like in the show.](#)

Now, here is a [picture of someone cosplaying as him.](#)

Completely custom-made. A tremendous amount of effort to get every element right went into this costume.

Video game characters.

Japanese anime characters.

Comic Book characters.

Movie Characters.

American cartoon characters.

Television characters.

All of it is fair game. [Cosplaying is about becoming someone you're not.](#)

Why do people cosplay? Check out [this video here](#). It helps people become someone you're not, even if it's just for a weekend. While you're at a con, it's a different world. This isn't the real world. This is the world of cosplay.



Photo Credit: Starcadet via Compfight cc



Take it from me. I've been there. I cosplay. Every year, I'm out there. And you know what? It's awesome. I have the time of my life.

Everyone is your friend. No one will make fun of you. If you don't go through as much effort as someone else, don't worry about it. As long as you tried, you'll be completely and utterly accepted into the community. What is looked down upon is when it looks like you put so little effort into your costume that you didn't care. Everyone is so kind. Everyone is happy. Everyone is smiling, squealing like children, and having the time of

their lives. No one is judging you. No one is making fun of you. When you come to cosplay, you're one of us. We don't ask questions.

The only rule is that you have fun. Smile for the camera. If you get stuck with random people running up to you, begging you to take a photo with them, do it. That's actually the greatest compliment you can get to the hours of work you put into your costume.

People are shy. People get made fun of. People get judged all the time. And you know what? People don't like being on the receiving end of it. It sucks. Cosplay is an escape from the real world. For many people, cosplay is the one thing they can do where they know they don't have to deal with any of that. Treat everyone the same way they're treating you.

This is *not* a business convention.
This is cosplay.

Welcome to Comic Con 2016.

