



MAGIC

The Gathering

GRAND PRIX

TRAVEL GUIDE

MAY 26-27, 2012



WELCOME TO THE LOS ANGELES GRAND PRIX OF ANAHEIM™*

GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

[Official WotC GP Anaheim event information page](#)
[Sunmesa Events site with side event details](#)

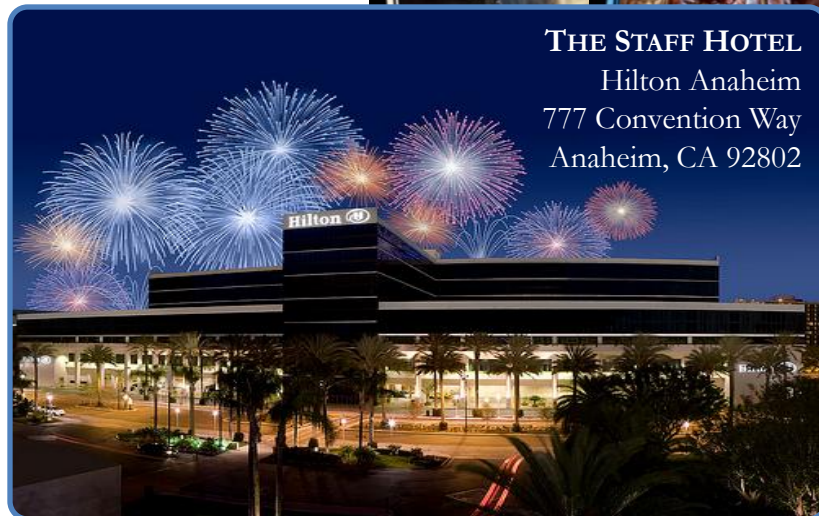
THE VENUE

Anaheim Convention Center
800 West Katella Avenue
Anaheim, CA 92802



THE STAFF HOTEL

Hilton Anaheim
777 Convention Way
Anaheim, CA 92802



HOTEL INFORMATION

Stay at the Hilton. Seriously. The [group rate](#) (must input Group Code **MTG**, not Promotion/Offer Code) is only \$99/night for up to 4 occupants and it's right next door to the venue.

I don't recommend any nearby cheap motels, so I'll just direct you to [hotels.com](https://www.hotels.com) for rates if you really must pinch pennies.

If you want to splurge, the Disneyland hotels are very nice. The [Grand Californian](#) is \$412/night, the [Disneyland Hotel](#) is \$340/night, and the [Paradise Pier Hotel](#) is a relative bargain at only \$305/night. Too rich for my blood, but if you can swing it, more power to you! Book through a third-party site rather than directly through Disney's website for these hotel rates.

*Baseball fans will understand this joke. ™ Josh Stansfield

FLYING IN?

AIRPORT INFORMATION

So many choices! What's the difference?

Here's a breakdown of the four airports within 40 miles of the venue, so you don't have to ride your Flying Carpet or flap your Cobbled Wings to reach SoCal.

SNA (aka John Wayne or Orange County)

18601 Airport Way, Santa Ana, CA

14 miles from the venue - [Shuttle cost: \\$8.00 each way](#)

SNA is a relatively small and quick airport, and is the closest one to the venue. The only caveat is that flights out of here require a steep takeoff due to noise regulations, so if you're sensitive to that, be warned. Flight pricing tends to be slightly higher than LAX, but is often comparable and sometimes cheaper, so it's definitely worth checking.

LGB

4100 East Donald Douglas Drive, Long Beach, CA

19 miles from the venue - [Shuttle cost: \\$35 each way](#) (add'l passengers \$9 each)

LGB is a very small airport that frequently loads planes directly from the tarmac via portable stairs. You'll be able to get in and out very quickly, but flight options are a little more limited. Might be worth checking if you can find a reasonably priced flight that can make up for the slightly higher shuttle cost.

LAX

1 World Way, Los Angeles, CA 90045

36 miles from the venue - [Shuttle cost: \\$16 each way](#)

LAX is the largest airport in the state, and therefore usually has the largest and cheapest flight selection. Since this is a massive international hub, you might have to do a lot of walking (and waiting in security lines on your way out).

ONT

2500 Terminal Way, Ontario, CA 91761

36 miles from the venue - [Shuttle cost: \\$43 each way](#) (add'l passengers \$9 each)

This airport calls itself "LA/Ontario" even though it's 35 miles from Los Angeles. It's a medium size airport with no particular benefits to flying here... it's just as far from the venue as LAX, but with a significantly higher shuttle cost and fewer flight options. Unless you find a great deal on a flight or have some other compelling reason, I'd stick with one of the other airports.

Flying Men and Women



Flight



Flying Carpet



Duty Gravity



DRIVING IN?

RENTAL CAR INFORMATION

Before you get too excited about \$20/day car rentals at LAX, consider the following:

- Average gas price in Orange County:
- Parking at the venue or the Hilton:
- Traffic in LA/OC:
- Stuff within walking distance of the venue:

\$4.23 per gallon

\$15-\$16 per day

Constant, especially near Disneyland on a weekend

Pretty much everything you could want besides Knott's Berry Farm

DIRECTIONS FROM THE NORTH (LOS ANGELES)

Take the 5 South

Exit **Disneyland Drive/Ball Road** and go straight/leftish onto **Disneyland Drive**

Pass Ball Road, then **keep right** to avoid the Disney parking garage entrance; go 1 mile

Turn Left on **Katella**; the Convention Center/Hilton will be on your right side



DIRECTIONS FROM THE EAST (INLAND EMPIRE)

Take the **91, 60** or **10** West to the **57** South

Exit **Ball Road**, turn Right; go 2.5 miles

Turn Left on **Disneyland Drive**

Keep right to avoid the Disney parking garage entrance; go 1 mile

Turn Left on **Katella**; the Convention Center/Hilton will be on your right side



DIRECTIONS FROM THE SOUTH (SOUTH OC/SAN DIEGO)

Take the 5 North

Exit **Harbor Blvd/Ball Road**, turn Right on **Harbor Blvd**

Turn Left on **Ball Road**; go ¼ mile

Turn Left on **Disneyland Drive**

Keep right to avoid the Disney parking garage entrance; go 1 mile

Turn Left on **Katella**; the Convention Center/Hilton will be on your right side



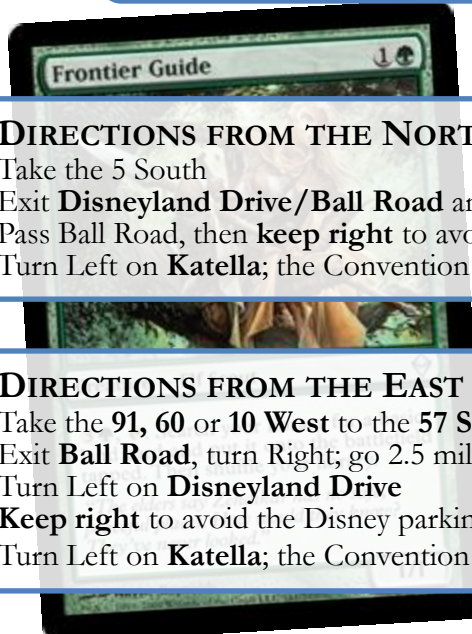
PARKING INFORMATION

Hilton: \$16/day with in/out privileges

Venue: \$15/day, NO in/out privileges

Disneyland: \$15/day, NO in/out privileges

Local Businesses: Whatever the towing company charges. Please don't try this!





- A ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER**
- B HILTON ANAHEIM**
- C DISNEYLAND MAIN ENTRANCE**
- D DOWNTOWN DISNEY DISTRICT**
- E ANAHEIM GARDEN WALK**
- F IHOP**
- G COCO'S**

DOWNTOWN DISNEY INFO

This is the closest shopping center to the venue (10 minute walk), with a variety of moderately pricey restaurants. There is also an AMC theater (around \$13.50/ticket if I remember correctly). Most of the shopping is focused on tourist impulse buys, as the strip of shops leads to the Disneyland park main entrance. Still not a bad place to spend some time and get a little bit of Disney atmosphere without having to pay to enter the park. If you have to park here, you get 3 free hours (5 hours with validation at AMC or a sit-down restaurant) before paying \$6 for each additional hour.

THE BLOCK AT ORANGE (Not on map)

This is the next closest shopping area, with a variety of clothing and specialty stores, a bowling alley, an AMC movie theater, and a reasonable dining selection, including Alcatraz, Café Tu Tu Tango, TGI Fridays and El Torito, in addition to a food court area. It's about 3 miles southeast from the venue, so a cheap cab ride if you're interested.

- DOWNTOWN DISNEY DINING**
- Catal Restaurant
 - ESPN Zone
 - House of Blues
 - Naples Ristorante e Pizzeria
 - Rainforest Café
 - Jazz Kitchen
 - Tortilla Joe's
 - Variety of fast-casual restaurants

- ANAHEIM GARDENWALK DINING**
- Bar Louie Tavern & Grill
 - Bubba Gump Shrimp Company
 - California Pizza Kitchen
 - Cheesecake Factory
 - FIRE + ICE Grill + Bar
 - Johnny Rockets
 - McCormick & Schmick's Grille
 - P.F. Chang's China Bistro
 - Roy's Hawaiian Fusion Cuisine



TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

DISNEYLAND & CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE

There are plans in the works to arrange a judge outing to Disneyland on Thursday May 24 and possibly also Monday May 28. A group rate is being negotiated, but look to the [DCIFamily.org forum](#) for details as they emerge. If you have to pay full price, it's [\\$80 for a one-day pass](#) to either park, or \$105 for a ticket valid at both parks on a single day. SoCal residents get a [slightly better deal](#). Parking is \$15 for the day, but you can easily walk to the entrance from the Convention Center/Hilton.



KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

Knott's touts itself as "America's 1st Theme Park." It is significantly less expensive than Disneyland ([\\$47.99 online](#), \$57.99 at the gate; 20% AAA discount; parking is \$15), and has more exciting roller coasters. If you're more interested in the excitement of rides than a magical atmosphere, Knott's is the way to go. It's in Buena Park about 8.5 miles from the venue, so you'll need a ride from a friend or a taxi (taxi should run about \$25 for the trip from Anaheim).

THE BEACHES – NEWPORT, HUNTINGTON OR LAGUNA

Anaheim is 15 miles from the shore in Huntington Beach, 20 miles from the pier in Newport Beach, and 24 miles from Laguna Beach. The water won't be particularly warm (63-64°F), but if you're aching to see the waves and walk on the sand, it's within reach! There is a Ruby's Diner over the water at the end of the Balboa Pier that is a worthwhile experience. Taxis won't be super cheap, so I recommend getting a ride from a local if possible!



MISCELLANEOUS PRO TIPS

Weather . . . ?



It's Southern California! We don't really have seasons, so expect reasonably warm days and mild nights. Average temps in Anaheim for May 26-27 are 79°F high and 59°F low (26°C/15°C), with record high/low of 90°F/50°F. Our weather is about as predictable as it gets! The sun will rise at 5:42am and set at 7:52pm.

Traffic laws



- Pedestrians have the right of way, but don't expect anyone to be a good driver.
- Jaywalking is a ticketable offense, so avoid problems by always using crosswalks.
- Carpool/diamond/HOV lanes are for two or more people in a vehicle (or one on a motorcycle). You can't cross double-yellow lines, so wait for a broken white line to enter or exit the lane.
- You can turn right on a red light unless signs indicate otherwise, but make sure to make a complete stop. Note that many intersections have cameras to catch you for running a red light, so don't do that.

Smoking laws – California is strict

Smoking is prohibited in pretty much all enclosed public establishments, including bars, restaurants, malls, stores, etc., unless they have an outside patio area where they explicitly allow smoking. Also, you must remain at least 20 feet away from any entrance operable window to a public building while smoking. Smoking may be allowed in 65 percent of rooms in hotels, or other places of "transient lodging." The Hilton Anaheim is 100% smoke-free, however. Disneyland and California Adventure are smoke-free parks with the exception of three designated smoking areas inside each park..



Sales Tax = 7.75% in Orange County
Sales Tax = 8.75% in Los Angeles County

California is in the Pacific Time Zone,
and is using Daylight Time: GMT-8

Safety information

You shouldn't have any serious concerns about crime or safety in the area around the venue, but make sure to apply common sense. Be aware of your surroundings and don't leave belongings unattended. Honestly, the risk of theft is probably higher inside the venue than out on the street. In the event of an emergency, dial 911 from any phone (even deactivated cell phones will work to dial 911).

Drinking laws

You can't have open alcohol containers on the street, but bars are open until 2am, with last call at 1:30am (bar time, which is usually closer to 1:10-1:15am). Throughout the U.S., you must be 21 years old to purchase or consume alcohol, or to enter a bar (there is no age restriction to enter a restaurant that also serves alcohol). Drinking and driving is accompanied by a massive fine. Public intoxication can also get you in trouble. Just use moderation, and you won't have any problems!