

ConnectiCon Info Sheet

<http://connecticon.org/index.php>

Dates: Friday, July 8th - Sunday, July 10th, 2011

Con Registration Rates:

3-day passes:

\$40 by **next Saturday**, March 19

\$50 by Saturday, June 4

\$60 afterwards & at-the-door

1-day passes:

Friday-only: \$30

Saturday-only: \$40

Sunday-only: \$25

At-the-door payment is *cash-only*, all other pre-registration payment is via Paypal, Google Checkout, Credit/Debit via Paypal or Google, or mail-in check/money-order.

Group Registration:

If 10 or more people register at the same time, each one gets \$5 off the current full-weekend rate. Each registration is in the person's own name, so the group doesn't all have to arrive together, but each person must have their own photo ID for badge pickup.

The registration form is short - name, address, contact email, 3-day vs 1-day pass, and emergency contact name/phone just in case.

Registrations are non-refundable & non-transferable (no person-to-person or year-to-year transfer).

Official Con Hotels:

Hartford Marriott Downtown

(attached to the convention center, and holding several evening/late night events)

200 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 249-8000

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bdldt-hartford-marriott-downtown/>

Single/Double/Triple/Quad Con Room rate: \$145/night, plus ~12% tax (72hr refundable cancellation)

Hilton Hartford

(On the Star Shuttle route, or about 15-20min walk through downtown)

315 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 728-5151

http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/HFDHFFF-Hilton-Hartford-Connecticut/index.do

Single/Double/Triple/Quad Con Room rate: \$145/night, plus ~12% tax (72hr refundable cancellation)

Area Hotels w/o Con rates:

(These are all on the free Star Shuttle route)

(Some of these may eventually post a special convention rate, if they do, you can usually call the hotel and get a better rate if available. Also, they all have day-of-reservation refundable cancellation.)

Crowne Plaza Hartford-Downtown

(It's on the opposite side of Rt-84, so you need the shuttle or a car to get back&forth)

50 Morgan Street, Hartford, CT 06120

(860) 549-2400

<http://www.cphartford.com/>

Current posted rates (for the CTCon weekend): \$119-\$129/night, plus ~12% tax for all non-suite room types

Residence Inn Hartford Downtown

(All rooms are apartment-style suites, with kitchenettes)

942 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 524-5550

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bdlri-residence-inn-hartford-downtown/>

Current posted rates (for the CTCon weekend): \$154/night, plus ~12% tax for their only room type, 1 bedroom suite w/ sofabed

Holiday Inn Express Hartford-Downtown

(Directly across from the train/bus station, but furthest away from the convention - also near the "nightlife" but otherwise a bit desolate)

440 Asylum Street, Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 246-9900

<http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/hartford/bdlas/hoteldetail?hotelCode=bdlas>

Current posted rates (for the CTCon weekend): \$169/night, plus ~12% tax for 2 Double/1 King rooms

Homewood Suites by Hilton Hartford Downtown

(All rooms are apartment-style suites, with kitchenettes)

(Not marked on shuttle map, but at stops #6/7, about a block from the train/bus station)

338 Asylum Street, Hartford, CT 06103

(860) 524-0223

http://homewoodsuites1.hilton.com/en_US/hw/hotel/WNDHWHW-Homewood-Suites-by-Hilton-Hartford-Downtown-Connecticut/index.do

Current posted rates (for the CTCon weekend): \$239-\$249/night, plus ~12% tax for Studio/1 bedroom suite w/ sofabed (They also have 2 bedroom suites w/ sofabed for \$349, plus ~12% tax)

Hotels across the River

(These are *not* on the Star Shuttle route, so you'd definitely need a car. There's a pedestrian bridge that's nice during the day, but I don't know about walk-ability on the opposite side, you'd have to ask around.)

Sheraton Hartford

(Offers a hotel shuttle to local sites, likely including the convention center - I don't know how frequently/late it runs though.)

100 East River Drive, East Hartford, CT 06901

(860) 528-9703

<http://www.sheratonhartfordhotel.com/>

Current posted rates (for the CTCon weekend): Seems their summer rates aren't available online yet, so you might try calling the hotel.

Hampton Inn & Suites

(Seems to be accessible via walking over the bridge mentioned above.)

351 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, CT 06108

(860) 282-2500

<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/hotels/index.jhtml>

Current posted rates (for the CTCon weekend): \$115-\$121/night, plus ~12% tax for 2 Queen/1 King rooms (They also have 2 Queen/1 King studio suites for \$141/night)

Transportation:

Depending on your schedule and budget, you're free to mix-and-match to get the transport method that fits, but you might need to be a bit savvy/flexible.

In Hartford:

The Star Shuttle in Hartford picks up from the back of Union Station, on the opposite side from the bus drop-off and the train waiting area. The Shuttle is free, looks like a brightly-painted city bus, has numerous drop-offs/pick-ups throughout Hartford, stops at most of the area hotels, and runs every 10min or so in a ~20min loop. (See the attached Shuttle map, pay no attention to the times.)

During the convention the shuttles run with extra frequent service and late-night hours (just ask the driver when the last bus runs, it varies year-to-year and differs Thursday/Friday/Saturday). The drivers have always been pretty friendly and professional in my experience, and it's nearly always full of buzzing congoers at all hours of the convention.

Bus to/from NYC:

Most inter-city buses from NYC go to Hartford by way of the larger New Haven Union Station, about an hour away. There are also rush-hour buses that run non-stop (or limited-stop) from NYC to Hartford.

Bus lines with NYC to Hartford routes include: Peter Pan & Greyhound (both direct and via New Haven), Bolt Bus, MegaBus & GotoBus (may make additional stops in Hartford), and CTTransit buses (mostly via New Haven). Bus fares vary widely by vendor, travel day, time of day, and

amenities like reserved seats and getting on the bus first, so I leave you to look up that stuff on your own.

Traveling in a group by bus in this manner is difficult, especially if you're more than 2-3 people, and the rush-hour buses on Thursday & especially Friday are packed-tight, so plan and pack accordingly.

Train to/from NYC:

To get to the con from NYC by train, you can take either:

- Amtrak (fast, infrequent, pricey - out of Penn Station, the NYC-Boston Northeast Corridor route)
OR

- Metro-North (slow, frequent, cheap - out of Grand Central, the New Haven Line).

Both trains go to New Haven Union Station, from there you can take the bus (as above) or the train shuttle (as below) to Hartford.

Amtrak has a 50min train shuttle that runs between New Haven and Hartford, but it's:

(a) infrequent, it runs about 4-6 times per day in each direction, and

(b) often tied to the schedules of major Northeast Corridor trains, so if the train from Boston or DC (or Florida!) is late, they may delay the shuttle accordingly.

FYI, at Hartford station the Amtrak runs at "ground level", so you've got to walk up/down the train-steps to get to the platform. The conductors can certainly help you get on/off the train, so if you're movement-impaired (as my mom likes to say), just let them know.

Metro-North is often packed during the peak of Thursday & Friday rush-hour, and Amtrak on Friday nights and Sunday afternoons often gets crowded with weekly commuters (and sometimes military folks in Connecticut), so plan & pack accordingly. Traveling by group by train is doable, but gets difficult during peak periods. Rates & schedules for trains are set seasonally, so figure they'll be locked-in and posted by May, or Memorial Day at the latest.

By Car:

Really the easiest way - it's a straight-shot up I-95 to New Haven, then switch over to I-91 N directly to Hartford.

Most hotels have guest parking (some complimentary, some not, check websites above), plus there are a bunch of parking garages around Hartford (rates vary, call ahead). The convention center itself has a giant parking structure (like 5-6 floors or something), but I've heard they charge a bear. I **think** there's some deal where folks staying at the Marriott park free/cheap in the con center garage (since they're adjoining), but you'd have to double-check that.

Street parking theoretically exists in Hartford, but I think it's even harder to find/trust than midtown NYC street parking, so... yeah.