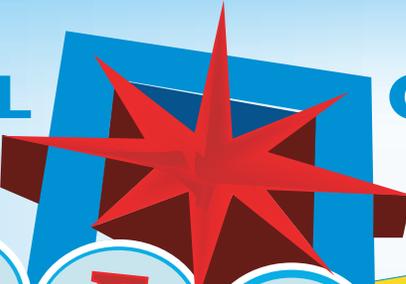


TECHNICAL

COMMUNICATORS



W E L C O M E

AN ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

LAS VEGAS

May 7-10, 2006

**STC'S 53RD
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

This document was researched, written, edited, and produced by the AccessAbility Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Society for Technical Communication (STC).

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While every effort has been made to describe the conference site and installations, as well as other locations around the conference host city accurately and thoroughly, neither STC nor the AccessAbility SIG can accept any liability for any errors or omissions contained in this guide.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Welcome to the City of Excess, the only place in the world where you can drink, gamble, and eat 24 hours a day. Las Vegas is part reality, part fiction. The only thing you will find nearly impossible to see is a clock!

Whether the purpose of your visit is business or pleasure, you will no doubt gamble at least occasionally, since casinos, and especially slot machines, are omnipresent in Vegas. Las Vegas casinos have a language of their own. Here's how to talk to impress around the gaming tables:

High Roller – Someone we're not, a big gambler who spends his money at the tables rather than the bars in exchange for a free suite. Good guys to hang with, though. A casino catering to high rollers is known as a **Carpet Joint**. A low roller, by the way, is known as a **Grind**, **Sucker** or **Tinhorn**.

Black Chip – A \$100 casino chip.

Boxman – Head man who supervises the craps table.

Hard Count/Soft Count – Counting the coins from the slot machines or counting the bills from the gaming tables.

Gaming Tables – The games played on tables, such as craps, blackjack, and poker.

Marryin' Sam – Wedding chapel minister (yikes!).

Stickman – The dude with the backscratcher-looking device in craps who handles the dice.

Stiff – Winning gambler who doesn't tip the dealer.

Turkey – Someone who is unpleasant to the dealer.

Token - Gratuity (yeah, we think of it as something else, too).

Purpose of this Guide

When far from home, it is common to experience some difficulty with getting around. For attendees of this year's STC conference in Las Vegas, this difficulty will thankfully be kept to a minimum. Since millions of people visit this city every year, Las Vegas has made their conference sites among the most accessible in the world.

For the fifth year running, the AccessAbility SIG has created this guide to make conference planning and travel easier and more manageable for all members of STC. Inside you will find accessibility information on the McCarran International Airport, ground transportation, lodging, restaurants, and a few Las Vegas tourist destinations. You will also find a collection of resources in the appendices.

For online Guide users, we encourage you to make use of the additional accessibility features we made available in this year's PDF version of the Guide. As in last year's Guide, you can again navigate through the guide with an extensive collection of bookmarks and live links. We have also included the option for screen readers, screen magnifiers, and high-contrast text. We sincerely hope that these new features make your conference planning easier than ever before.

Making the Most of Your Experience

You are the only one who can make this conference a success. Be proactive. Here are some suggestions to help you achieve maximum benefit from your conference sessions:

The "Hub" of the Conference Site

Visit the Program Booth and check the Bulletin Board for news, messages, or schedule changes. Both of these will be located in the Bally's Event Center and near the Registration area and the Vendor Exhibits. For last minute tips and travel suggestions, visit the Las Vegas STC Chapter Hospitality Booth, also in the Event Center. The Event Center will be the "hub" of the conference site. You should walk by this area at least a couple of times each day. To download an excellent detailed PDF map of the Bally's, showing the Event Center, click **Event Center Map**. The Event Center is in the top left corner of the map.

Arrive Early

When you arrive at a session, try to let the speaker know of your needs *before* the session begins. For instance, if you have trouble hearing, arrive at the session early, introduce yourself to the speaker(s) prior to the session, and remind him, her, or them to speak loudly and clearly and to repeat any questions asked by an audience member. Never expect speakers to be aware of your special needs.

Sit Up Front

If you use a wheelchair and prefer to sit up front, arrive at the sessions early to avoid making people stand up to let you through. If you arrive early, it will be

easier to get a seat close to the speaker and obtain any handouts that are passed out during the session.

Come to the AccessAbility SIG Progression

Save an hour or so of your time at the Conference to come and hear some members of the AccessAbility SIG during Leadership Day. The presentation is called “The AccessAbility SIG – Anatomy of a Successful Community”. The date is Sunday, May 7, and it is scheduled from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. The location is to be determined.

Las Vegas time, weather, distances, and crowds

When traveling to the West Coast of the United States, you may experience a change in time and climate. We’ve included information on time zones and local Las Vegas weather to help you plan your clothing, transportation, and sightseeing.

Time

Las Vegas is located in the State of Nevada, in the Pacific Time Zone of the United States of America.

If it is <u>noon</u> in Las Vegas, it is...	
Time	Location
3 p.m.	on the East Coast of North America
8 p.m.	in Western Europe
1 a.m.	in India (the next day)
6 a.m.	in Australia (the next day)

Weather

The weather in the desert resort of Las Vegas is mild most of the year. Las Vegas averages 320 days of sun, while the average rainfall is 4.19 inches per year.

The average high temperature in Las Vegas during May is 85°F (30°C). The average low is 70°F (20°C).

If arriving at night, be sure to look out the window and enjoy the spectacular view of the Strip and the surrounding areas.

Overall, there is very little chance for rain during the conference. Air quality should be good, although pollen count may be elevated.

Please don’t forget that Las Vegas is in the middle of the desert. If you are planning to spend some time outdoors, don’t forget to drink water and stay hydrated. Also, bring sunglasses and a good sun block with at least SPF15.

Distances

Be aware of distances in Las Vegas. The blocks on the Strip are huge, in fact much larger than in most cities. Distances are distorted given the sheer scale of most buildings, combined with the distances between major intersections. For example, that casino that seems to be just a quick five-minute stroll on a map may actually be a mile away!

Crowds

The area immediately surrounding the hotels is flat, with the exception of architectural features like stairs and landscaping. The streets and sidewalks are flat all along the Strip, but the sidewalks tend to get crowded as pedestrian traffic gets funneled at major intersections. During their periodic displays, casinos such as the Bellagio (with its spectacular fountains), Treasure Island (with its pirate battles), and the Mirage (with its exploding volcano) see tremendous crowd gatherings. At times, the spaces become tightly packed with onlookers standing shoulder-to-shoulder. Construction is also a constant; and some sidewalks may narrow around cones and barriers.

Types of needs covered in this guide

We have made a valiant effort to cover a wide variety of needs in this year's guide. Within this document, you will find accessibility comments pertaining to:

- ✓ **Mobility** – If you need to use a wheelchair or scooter to get around, or if you walk with canes, crutches, or a walker.
- ✓ **Fatigue** – If you get tired easily, for whatever reason.
- ✓ **Hearing Loss** – If you have any degree or type of hearing impairment, or even total deafness.
- ✓ **Vision and Visibility** – If you have any degree or type of visual impairment, or even total blindness.
- ✓ **Dietary Restrictions** – If for any reason (medical, religious, or ethical), you have a special food diet.

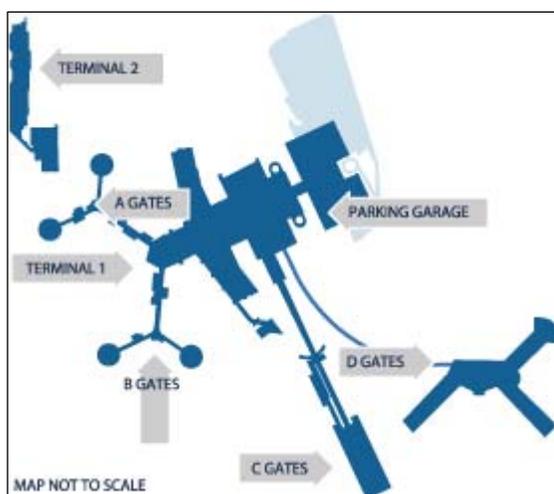
Chapter 2: Arriving at the McCarran International Airport

Overview

McCarran International Airport serves the Las Vegas valley as the main airport for the region. Travelers to the conference will most likely arrive and depart here. McCarran sees over 30 million visitors per year, or over 80,000 travelers per day. It can be a very busy place at times.

McCarran has four main gate areas, lettered A-D. This section covers only the C gates, used mainly by Southwest Airlines, one of the most popular air carriers here. This section also includes information about the main terminal, the baggage claim area, and basic transportation.

Below is an overview map of the airport.



For more detailed information about McCarran International Airport, click [The Airport](#).

For a larger PDF map of the airport, click [Big map](#).

For a general brochure of the airport, click [Brochure](#).

The Main Terminal

The main terminal has several displays showcasing the airport's history. If you are an airplane or history buff, these displays are worth a quick browse. Restaurants and shops are all along the main walkway. (Watch out for the cheap imitation wrist watches!) Flooring in the main walking traffic areas is smooth stone, with carpets in the slot machine areas. Lighting ranges from subdued along the central, services, and shops areas to glaring in the slot machine areas. There is a constant hum from background noise and other activities. Overhead announcements occur frequently.

The carpeted walkway leading to the A/B gates is inclined at least 5 degrees (it might actually be steeper than this) downwards towards the security checkpoint. This inclined walkway overlooks the ticketing counters on either side on the floor below. Nearby is a Wells Fargo bank branch.

The C Gates

The C gates are divided into two areas, with gates 1-22 in the southern area, accessible only by a tram, and gates 23-27, about 50 yards away from the security checkpoint. Gates 23-27 are accessible by a long corridor with a moving walkway that allows two people to stand side-by-side. The adjacent wide walkway is covered with a short-piled padded carpet. Wide stairs with seven steps mark the entrance into the larger gate area. Brass-colored rails provide support. A single elevator next to the stairs is clearly marked. Gates 23-27 are not as crowded as Gates 1-22.

The 1–22 gate area tends to be crowded especially during the early morning or late afternoon. Typically, expect to take about 10–15 minutes to go from the gates to baggage claim after leaving your airplane. Gates 7–14 are furthest from the tram. When departing, follow the airport’s guidelines to be at the airport about two hours before departure.

The area for gates 1–22 is carpeted with short-pile carpet. Walkways beyond the gates are flat and shiny, with stone-like flooring. The walkways stay flat throughout the gate areas and all the way to the tram area. The gate area is flanked by large windows that look out over the runways. Although darkened, the windows are sometimes overwhelmed by the bright Las Vegas sun. Furthermore, banks of slot machines are positioned throughout the gate areas and close to the tram, but not immediately next to the gates. The noise level next to the slot machines sometimes forces you to raise your voice to have a comfortable conversation.

Wheelchairs

A wheelchair service is available. It is provided free of charge by one of two companies contracted by the airport to provide this service. Another company covers the A-B gates area. It is not certain that the D gates have this service. Inform your travel agent or your flight attendant to make arrangements to have the service waiting for you at the gate. You can also call from the gate using the courtesy phones (or the gate agent) and allow 10–15 minutes, more during peak times. The service will take you to baggage claim, the most common request. The service is limited to the immediate airport only. Although provided for free, tips are always appreciated.

Signage

Directional signs are positioned overhead. Other signs direct travelers to restaurants, phones, and other services. ATMs are located near gates 16-18, and the tram area.

Restrooms

Restrooms are clearly marked. Restrooms are near most gates. Only the men’s restroom near the 8–13 gates was checked to get the interior layout information: standard stalls, with at least one wheelchair-accessible stall. The floor is a roughened stone texture, similar to fine sandpaper.

Tram and Tram Area

Gates 1–22 are linked to the main terminal by a short tram ride. Two trams with three cars each travel alternately between the main terminal and the C gates every three minutes. When one tram is at the gates, the other is at the main terminal, which makes wait time minimal. The tram ride takes about 30-40 seconds. Enter the tram on one side, and depart on the other side. Note that departing passenger doors are opened first, before entering passengers.

Each car can hold 20 people comfortably, depending on luggage. Passengers often stand as they hold on to poles or rails set into the walls. Each car has hard seats and spaces labeled and dedicated for wheelchairs at the end of each car. The tram entrance/door sill is level with the walkway. Bright sunlight often floods the tram as it exits the terminal or gate areas. The tram travels on a slight incline and decline.

Security Checkpoint

Gates C and D share a common checkpoint area on the second level. For C-gates, follow the checkpoints to the right; for D-gates, go to the left. Beyond the gates are the trams to the respective gate areas. Follow the signs to the correct gates.

The area is covered with a short-pile, padded carpeting. This open second floor area overlooks the baggage carousels on the floor below. The checkpoint area is accessible by walkways on either side of the mezzanine. Elevators are present and marked near the northern entrance (C-gate side) to the checkpoint or between the escalators in the area between the two baggage claim areas.

Baggage Claim

The baggage claim area is on a lower level from the gate levels. As you depart the tram from the C-gates, follow the signs toward the downward escalators that travel below the checkpoint to the floor below.

Elevators are available. Turn left before the escalators, follow the walkway just past the security checkpoint, turn right just before you enter the walkway to the C23–27 gates, and follow the walkway for about 30 yards. The elevator will be to your left. Alternately, you can continue along the walkway, which brings you out to the mezzanine area overlooking the baggage claim area below. Continue ahead for another 70 yards to the elevators located between the escalators in the main terminal walkway.

The baggage claim area is divided into two areas. One area contains carousels 1–8, the other 9–16. A large walkway area separates the two. This walkway is carpeted and is more darkly lit than the open baggage claim areas. Several car rental desks are here, as well as restrooms.

This walkway leads out to the parking lots, taxis, car rental shuttles, hotel shuttles, limos, and other ground transportation. Main doors leading from the walkway to the outside areas are automatic, but can be a bottleneck especially those leading out to the taxis and parking lot areas.

Both baggage claim areas have shiny, hard, smooth flooring. Carpeted areas are smooth and firm. Banks of slot machines are positioned in the main walkway between the carousels. Several billboard-sized signs are positioned high on the walls throughout the baggage claim area advertising various hotels and attractions.

The area immediately next to the downward escalators from the C-gates can get very crowded. Lighting here is uneven as you go from the relative darkness of the escalator and overhanging structure to the open areas with the bright billboards and flashing slot machines. With flooring ranging from carpeted areas to smooth stone, the noise levels can vary tremendously. The areas close to the slot machines can get noisy. Occasionally, a billboard punctuates its message with a loud fanfare.

For travelers on Southwest Airlines, continue on to carousels 13–16, the ones furthest from the C-gates. Check the monitors above each carousel for your flight number. A few padded seats are available next to the carousels.

Taxis

Taxis are available from the taxi stand on the same level as the baggage claim. Exit going east from the main walkway and turn right. This outdoor area can be very noisy with heavy car traffic and control officers with their whistles and shouts to keep the traffic moving. The line for the taxis forms along the smooth concrete sidewalk to the right. Attendants are available to assist travelers with mobility or access needs often allowing them “cuts” in line and diverting taxis directly to them. A taxi ride to the hotel along the airport tunnel takes about 15 minutes and can cost about \$15-\$20 (with tip) depending on traffic.

Shuttles

Shuttles to many hotels are available on the same level as the baggage claim. Exit through doors 8 through 14. Look for the signs for Paris or Bally’s hotels. Attendants are present to help. Click **Shuttles** for available shuttle services. All are wheelchair accessible, but be sure to let the curb attendant know about any special need. Costs range from \$5-\$10 to the hotel. Shuttles are also available from the hotel. Give the service a call to schedule a pickup. Car and limo rentals are also available.

This outdoor area can be very noisy with heavy car traffic and control officers with their whistles and shouts to keep the traffic moving.

Chapter 3: Ground Transportation

Busses

Public bus transportation is offered by Citizen's Area Transit (CAT). The CAT busses run many routes through the Strip and the surrounding areas. Look for the new "Deuce" double-decker busses. For Las Vegas, this bus is totally covered (unlike those in London) to allow air-conditioning in the summer. For more information on Las Vegas bus transportation, click [CAT and Deuce](#).

Monorail

The Las Vegas Monorail runs parallel just east of the Strip behind the resorts. The northern end terminates by the Sahara Hotel; the southern end terminates at the MGM Grand Hotel. Tickets can be per ride, a pack of 10, or all day. Trivia: the Monorail trams should look familiar if you've ever ridden the Disneyland tram as these are the same ones refurbished for Las Vegas. For more information, click [Monorail](#).

Excalibur-Luxor-Mandalay Bay Monorail

These three casinos run their own monorail among them, from 4 a.m. to 2 a.m. The cost is free, but this monorail tends to get crowded. For more information on this monorail, click [Excalibu-Luxor-Mandalay Bay](#).

Taxis

Several taxi companies service the airport and the Strip. There is a special fee for airport runs, but the overall cost from the airport to the hotel should be \$10-\$15 including the tip. For more information on Las Vegas taxi companies, click [Taxis](#).

Limousines

Limousines are available at the airport or at the hotel. Also, look for drivers that are waiting for their clients. These drivers often offer steep discounts for a quick 1-2 hour jaunts at about \$40-50/hour. Practice your negotiating skills. Gather a group and split the cost. For a wide choice of limousines services, check out [Limousines](#).

Handicapped Access in Las Vegas

For much more information on general accessibility around Las Vegas, click [Handicapped access](#).

Chapter 4: Conference Hotels

This year's conference will take place in two prestigious adjoining hotels in the heart of the famous Las Vegas Strip – the **Paris Las Vegas Hotel** and the **Bally's Las Vegas Hotel**. We at the AccessAbility SIG explored and assessed both hotels, and found them both to be quite accessible places to stay during this year's conference. The main features we considered were: the distance from the airport, the availability of accessible rooms, the features of the accessible rooms and bathrooms, and the landscape and floor plans inside and outside of the hotel. For excellent detailed PDF maps of both hotels, click [Bally's Map](#) or [Paris Map](#).

For the 53rd annual conference, STC has arranged for special rates at these two hotels (click [Conference hotel information](#) for more information on reservations and pricing). Be sure to make your reservation through the STC website, in order to take advantage of the special reduced STC conference rates.

The Paris Las Vegas Hotel	The Bally's Las Vegas Hotel
3655 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, Nevada 89109	3645 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, Nevada 89109-4307

Arriving at the Hotel

Arriving by taxi or minibus at the Paris hotel, the drop-off point is very close to the main doors. There is no curb, and the surface is flat, tiled, and not slippery. There are lots of doors including revolving doors wide enough for wheelchairs and scooters (we actually went through behind someone in a wheelchair) with buttons outside and inside to slow the revolving doors down. There is another set of doors with wheelchair height buttons to open them from the outside and inside. The other doors do require a little push to open them.

The Bally's main entrance is identical. Bally's also has a side entrance on Flamingo Road, but there is an eight-inch curb there with a sloped access, and it looks difficult to get to when taxis are parked. There are benches to sit on between the two sets of doors here.

At the Paris hotel, the reception/check-in and concierge area is very close to the main door and the floor is flat, with no steps. We estimate there is about 100 feet from the door of a taxi to the reception desks. The floor is a mixture of carpet (not thick) and tile. It may be slippery when wet here. It is not noisy here because it is off the main floor, and there is a wheelchair accessible check-in desk. The lighting is from chandeliers, and with the tile it could be a little visually distracting, but not too bright. The carpet in the check-in area is thicker than the rest, which makes it more difficult for wheelchairs. Ask the concierge for a floor plan. It shows the Paris on one side and the Bally's on the other of a useful color map.

Please note that apart from the seats at the casino tables and slot machines, and in restaurants, there are **no seats** to rest anywhere on the Paris main floor. The only seats are in the walkway toward the Bally's hotel.

Still in the Paris, after check-in, there is a walkway lined with shops and cafés that you pass by to get to the elevators for the guest rooms. They have tried to make it appear like fake Paris-style cobbles, or round tiles, but it is only slightly uneven and not slippery. The area should present no problem for wheelchairs or scooters, but possibly a little problem for someone with a cane or a walker. There are no major obstacles except tourists. This is probably the most crowded area at the Paris hotel. Be prepared to stand in line for a long time nearly everywhere you go to eat, at any time of the day or night. We liked the fact that you do not have to cross a casino floor and there were no flashing lights right next to the walkway. This walkway will eventually take you to the Bally's hotel. We did notice in this walkway that you can sit on the windowsills of some of the shops, and there is also a quiet fountain here where you can sit on the edge to rest.

About 50 yards from the Paris hotel check-in area along the walkway, you turn into the corridor for the guest room elevators. The elevators are well signed but you have to look up. There are several banks of elevators and they only go to certain floors. There are a few Braille signs, but these could be confusing for partially sighted guests. Once in the elevators, the buttons light up, the floor number lights up well, and there is a green arrow to show whether it is going up or down. At each floor passed, the elevator beeps, but you have to remember that there is no floor 13!!

The rooms are arranged in a “carrefour” fashion (a star-like large intersection, like in Paris!), off a central hub and there are lots of benches to sit on at the hub. The floor is carpeted but it is not thick, and we saw a petite lady wheeling someone in a wheelchair across the carpeting to their room, with no problems. Our room had just a shower with a shower seat and there were grab-handles by the toilet. The only problem I saw was that the showerhead, although on an adjustable pole, was set too high. You could pull at it and dislodge it but you need to be quick to catch it. The hairdryer seemed a little high too. Both hotels have several accessible rooms available.

Hotel Kits

For hearing impaired guests, both the Paris and the Bally's hotels have at least a telecaption decoder and TDD available. They also have a kit available at the front desk with a door knock light, a call alert, a vibrating alarm clock, and a visual alarm. Just ask for one when you check in, or ask the concierge.

Signage

Signage throughout the Paris and the Bally's hotels needs improvement. Even using a map, it was difficult to find ramps, restrooms, telephones, and slot machine ticket redemption machines (slot machines do not take coins, but only bills or “tickets”). Signs on lamp posts are very deceiving. They are supposed to guide visitors, but they contain a lot of French, so walkers don't always take them seriously. Besides, these signs contain many French mistakes...!

Renting Wheelchairs and Scooters

We asked about renting wheelchairs or motor scooters. Both the Paris and the Bally's hotels have up to 3 dozen available in each hotel, but it is best to order in advance (one week notice if possible). Costs are US\$40 per day, US\$70 for 2 days, and US\$105 for 3 to 4 days. At either hotel, the concierge arranges the rental, and a refundable deposit is required. We saw quite a few motorized scooters and all kinds of wheelchairs in both hotels and they were moving faster than we were.

Telephones

There are many public telephones around the hotel and conference rooms, and they are easy to see. It was very quiet when we visited, but it will probably be less quiet during a conference. Some of the conference room areas had private telephone booths for more quiet and privacy. Every set of telephones had one wheelchair-accessible booth with full telephone capabilities. All the phones had volume buttons, and a few were TTY. There is one public telephone booth in the Paris check-in area that is big enough for a wheelchair to enter and close the door for quiet and privacy.

Restrooms

We went into all the restrooms we could find. They were all very clean and the women's usually had two or more wheelchair-accessible stalls with grab bars. One was very wide but the others were narrower. There was always at least one wheelchair-accessible sink, and the hand towel dispensers were set at a low height. Some restrooms by the conference rooms had plush chairs. We were told that there was at least one wheelchair-accessible stall in each men's room, but only a few of them had wheelchair-accessible sinks where you can roll under the counter. We did not see any family-style restrooms.

Conference Session Rooms

To get to the Paris conference rooms from the guest rooms, you go **right** at the main floor and follow the walkway toward the Bally's. About 150 yards further, there is a three-way intersection area where the underground parking is one way (right in front, slightly on the right), the conference rooms are another way (to the right), and the path to the Bally's is another way (to the left, along another walkway). There is an information desk at the intersection, which has at least two people there most of the day. The counter is not very high, and the people seemed very helpful. At the Paris, most conference rooms are ballrooms.

At the Bally's, conference rooms are located in three areas. Some rooms are at the casino level (east side), along the same side as the Bally's check-in area, but all the way at the other end. Another area for conference activities is in the Skyview (26th floor). The last area is in the South Tower. The elevators to this tower are very hard to find. They are close to the Bally's main entrance, to the right as you enter the hotel. Take the elevator to the Las Vegas or the Pacific ballrooms.

All the conference rooms had carpeted flooring, but it was firm and not thick. The signage was good here but the actual signs above each conference room were gold lettering on white and we could hardly read it!

Safe Place to Leave Your Own Wheelchair or Scooter

Back on the main floor at the Paris, we asked at the concierge desk if they can look after wheelchairs. They said they do. The procedure is the same as if it were a piece of luggage. They secure the chair with your name on it, and you need to show ID to retrieve it. The concierge's desk is at the reception area by the main doors, and the storage area is the same as the luggage storage area, close to the main entrance.

Companion Dogs

We asked in each hotel if a companion dog would be a problem. At the Bally's, they remember George Carlin was once a guest there, and had a dog with him. The dog was able to relieve himself out the main door and behind the valet parking area. At the Paris hotel, you can go out the main door and to the left. There is a walkway and the dog can pee on the grass there.

Parking

The free underground parking area can be reached by the elevator that is off the intersection mentioned earlier, just behind the information desk. There are about 10 accessible parking spaces on each level, right by the elevators. There is flat or slightly sloping surface to roll-in type elevators. Lighting in the elevator is subdued and levels were signed by Paris areas using color as well. The parking elevator did have music which was annoying. If you prefer, valet parking is available at the main entrance of the Paris or the Bally's.

Getting to the Bally's

To get to the Bally's hotel from the Paris using the indoor route, you turn left at the intersection area where the information booth is, and go along another walkway past some shops. There are two ramps down along this walkway and sets of steps (about five steps each time), but you have to go around a fountain each time and there is some noise off the fountains and some light distraction. You arrive on the noisy main casino floor at the Bally's. The whole Bally's casino floor is recessed, so that there are ramps or steps up to get to the conference rooms and to the main reception areas. The two ramps are not very wide and not that easy to find. Up at the reception area, there are no wheelchair-accessible desks, and the floor tiles are quite shiny but not slippery. It is fairly noisy here too. The main entrance is almost the same as at the Paris, with flat surfaces and revolving doors wide enough for wheelchairs. The Bally's Event Center (the hub of the conference site) is located on the same level as the Bally's Reception Area.

It is approximately 200 yards from the Bally's reception area to this hotel's conference rooms. This area is mostly carpeted, with firm footing; once you leave the reception area,

the lighting and noise are more subdued. The guest room elevators are about halfway along. The conference room signage is clear and in large print, and there is a bank of telephones. It is quite noisy at the telephones here because you are still close to the casino area.

There are also a number of conference rooms in the South Tower (on the opposite side of the casino floor from the reception area) and they are on the second floor. There are escalators and elevators and a café. The telephones along this walkway were in booths and very quiet. The restrooms here were fine also. Signage was good. Lighting was subdued and it was not too noisy here, as you are away from the general casino noise.

Dining, Drinking, Shopping

All restaurants and bars, as well as the majority of shops at the Paris and at the Bally's hotels, were found to be reasonably accessible. Many places will be very crowded though.

Special Dietary Meal Requests

Peg Cottrell in the STC office handles requests for special dietary meals.

STC Contact Information	
Contact name	Peg Cottrell
E-mail	<i>peg@stc.org</i>
Phone	703-522-4114, Extension 204
Fax	703-522-2075

The STC office requires advance notification if you require any special dietary needs, such as kosher, vegetarian, vegan, diabetic, or certain foods to accommodate food allergies. You may have already attached a written description of your special dietary needs with your pre-registration form. If you did not register for the conference by the advanced registration deadline of April 21, 2006, please submit your registration as soon as possible. Be sure to check the Special Needs box on the left side of your registration form and attach a written request specifying your special dietary needs.

Pre-registration

If you did not include your dietary needs with your registration form, provide your request to Peg Cottrell in the STC office by noon on Friday, April 21, 2006.

Check the registration materials that you receive at the conference to make sure that your meal tickets specify your request. If the tickets do not specify the meals that you requested, take them immediately to the on-site registration desk located in the Bally's Hotel Event Center and explain your situation. If you overlooked informing the STC office of your needs when you registered, let the on-site

registration desk staff know as soon as possible. The hotels need a minimum of 24 hours to accommodate your needs.

Upon entering the dining area, please give your ticket to the table servers and let them know you have requested a specially prepared meal. Your meal will be prepared for you by the hotel staff, based upon the request that you submitted. Do not request a change in your meal from the one that was ordered for you by STC per your specifications. It is difficult for the hotel chef to accommodate last-minute changes, and the last-minute changes will be billed to STC.

On-Site Registration

If you register at the conference and require a special dietary meal:

- ✓ Inform the personnel at the on-site registration desk located in the Bally's Hotel Event Center.
- ✓ Print your name on the back of each specially marked meal ticket you receive, in order to help the hotel staff deliver your meals to you.

Do not request a change in your meal from the one that was ordered for you. Only a limited number of special meals are prepared, and it is difficult for the hotel chef to accommodate last-minute changes.

Shuttle Back to the Airport

The area to take the shuttle back to the airport is very hard to find at the Paris hotel. From the main hotel entrance, it is basically north-north-west, or 11 o'clock. We saw no signs leading to the shuttle area. You need to meander through the casino area in the general direction or go all around the casino on the left.

Remember that you do NOT have to bring your own luggage to the shuttle area. Ask the concierge to have your luggage brought to the bus departure area. There will be an attendant in that shuttle departure area.

There are a couple of uncomfortable metal benches outside for you to sit on while you wait for your shuttle. Remember to check the shuttle schedule with the concierge. You can pay the driver directly.

Our Recommended Hotel

Generally speaking, we liked the Paris hotel better, and we suggest you stay there rather than at the Bally's. The Bally's was much noisier and you have to go up or down a ramp or a few steps to get to the casino floor. The Paris is not so noisy and you do not need to change levels to get to your room or to the conference rooms. We did see lots of wheelchairs around at both hotels, so it doesn't seem to be a problem. Both hotels are considered to be *small* hotels (of course, this is Las Vegas, where most things are gigantic...!), and after a few hours we had no trouble finding our way around. You don't have to go outside at all between the two hotels so that is good. Our room was great and the air conditioning was great—not loud at all.

Maps

If you wish to look at interactive maps of the major hotels on the Strip, click [here](#). Please note that the scale can be a bit misleading.

Appendix A – Emergency Information

This section of the guide contains information about the Las Vegas Police Department and the Las Vegas Fire Department. It also lists hospitals and clinics, pharmacies, medical suppliers, equipment repair and rental companies, and veterinary clinics located close to the conference hotels.

Las Vegas Police Department

If an emergency occurs while you are attending the conference, call the emergency numbers below to reach the Las Vegas Police Department. For non-emergency situations, call the non-emergency number.

- ✓ Emergency: 9-1-1
- ✓ Non-Emergency: 3-1-1 or (702) 229-3111
- ✓ TTY: (702) 229-3111

Las Vegas Fire Department

You can reach the Las Vegas Fire Department at these numbers in the event of a fire, medical emergency, or other disaster.

- ✓ Emergency: 9-1-1
- ✓ Non-Emergency: 3-1-1 or (702) 383-2888

Hospitals and Clinics

There are numerous hospitals and clinics available to you in the Las Vegas area. All of the hospitals and clinics listed below are less than five miles from the conference hotels.

Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center

3186 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV
(about 3.5 miles from the conference hotels)
(702) 731-8000

For more information, click [Sunrise Hospital](#).

University Medical Center (UMC) of Southern Nevada

1800 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV
(702) 383-2000

For more information, click [UMC](#).

Clinics

The most common clinics are associated with the University Medical Center. These are called the Quick Care Clinics. Just walk in, place your name, and wait to be called.

Emergencies are handled immediately. For more information and nearest locations, click [Quick Care Clinics](#).

Wheelchair and Scooter Repairs

We found two, but we were unable to check their services ourselves.

AAA Enterprises
924 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV
(702) 310-4028

For more information, click [AAA Enterprises](#).

Batteries by Shelton Inc.
3731 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, NV
(702) 362-8180

For more information, click [Batteries by Shelton](#).

For more general information on medical equipment and supplies around Las Vegas, click [Medical Equipment](#).

Blindconnect

This place provides information and peer support for visually impaired Las Vegas visitors. This non-profit agency is available at any time.

4550 West Oakley, Suite 111N
Oakley/Valley View
Las Vegas, NV
(702) 631-9009
Contact person: Jean Peyton – Tel.: (702) 631-5548

Appendix B – Convenience Information

Business Center

The Business Center is conveniently located between the Paris and the Bally's hotels. It is in the walkway between the two hotels, close to the large information desk. Check their website at **Business Center** for their operating hours, telephone number, etc.

You can use the business center to photocopy, fax, or print materials. You can have the people do the job for you or do it yourself.

While conveniently located, the business center is not very accessible to people who use a wheelchair or a scooter. It has a big heavy door that you must pull to get in and push to exit. The door in the computer area is very narrow, and to get to most desks a wheelchair would have to go into station 1, shut the door, and go to another station, then open the door again. The area is very quiet though and shuts out the noise in the walkway very well.

Appendix C – Tourist Information

There are many attractions to visit in and around Las Vegas. While the purpose of this guide is not to serve as a tourist guide, a few attractions were found to be difficult to access for some people, and impossible to access for others.

The Hoover Dam

The Hoover Dam tour involves many stairs and much walking, even though the tour was scaled way down from before September 11.

The Stratosphere Tower

You can reach the top of the Stratosphere Tower with a very fast-moving elevator, which at times can be very crowded. The ascent is swift and may cause stomach “flutters” and may affect those with sensitive inner ears. Once at the top of the tower, the view is spectacular. Be prepared for a constant breeze. If the wind gets too strong, the rides may be closed.

Roller-Coaster Rides

There are many roller-coaster rides in town, and some may have restrictions regarding access.

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