The 2009 Robotics: Science and Systems conference will take place in Seattle, an area known for its scenic beauty, temperate climate, and abundant cultural/recreational opportunities. The Olympic Mountains to the west, Mount Rainier dominating the horizon to the south, and the Cascade Range to the east provide spectacular backdrops to the city's waterfront, lakes and forested hills.

**Seattle Weather**

Summer temperatures in Seattle are generally mild. The average maximum temperature in June is 69.4°F and the average minimum temperature is 51.3°F. Current weather forecast for Seattle: [http://bit.ly/f0Yhk](http://bit.ly/f0Yhk)

**VENUE**

University of Washington.

Just north of downtown Seattle, the University of Washington campus occupies 684 acres bordering Lake Washington. Conference meeting facilities on campus are within comfortable walking distance of hotels, nearby restaurants, shops, and services.

Conference will be held in Guggenheim Hall. [http://bit.ly/t5ITx](http://bit.ly/t5ITx)

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**20 June 2009**
Some of the breaks, exhibits and the poster reception will take place in the Paul Allen Center for Computer Science and Engineering. Dedicated in October 2003, the Paul Allen Center is attached to the Electrical Engineering Building on the University of Washington campus. Campus map showing Paul Allen center: http://bit.ly/4o0ilB

Workshops will be held in the HUB (student union building).
Campus map showing HUB building: http://bit.ly/3MlPh
Campus map showing EEB: http://bit.ly/3seVi
RSS Robotics Conference, June 28-July 1, 2009
University of Washington campus, Seattle, Washington

Parking garage entrance from 15th Ave. NE

Sunday workshops in Electrical Engineering Building

Registration, breaks, exhibit booths, and poster reception in Paul Allen Center for Computer Science and Engineering

Entrance from NE 45th St.

Dorm rooms Available in McMahon

Monday Workshops in HUB

Conference in Guggenheim
PARKING

A car is not necessary for conference participants who will be staying in University area hotels. The recommended hotels are walking distance from the campus or provide a shuttle service. For participants who will be arriving by car, visitor parking is available in the Central Plaza Garage (http://is.gd/12aHU). Daily parking permits are available for $12 per day, payable at the entrance gates. Saturday and evening parking permits are available for $8 (evenings 4 p.m.-9pm and Saturdays 7am-noon). You cannot purchase 24 hour parking permits.

More parking information (http://bit.ly/91oW4) from the UW parking division

DIRECTIONS

Driving Directions: (http://bit.ly/eWiAw)

Coming from the North:

From I-5 southbound, take the NE 45th Street exit (#169). Turn left onto NE 45th Street. Continue east about one quarter mile to 15th Avenue NE and turn right. Head south on 15th Avenue three blocks to NE 41st Street. Turn left at Gate #1 into the Central Plaza Garage (http://is.gd/12aHU). Stop at the gatehouse inside the garage for directions and a parking permit.

Coming from the South:

Drive northbound on I-5 (do not use the express lanes), and take the NE 45th Street exit (#169). Turn right onto NE 45th Street. Continue east about one quarter mile to 15th Avenue NE and turn right. Head south on 15th Avenue three blocks to NE 41st Street. Turn left at Gate #1 into the Central Plaza Garage (http://is.gd/12aHU). Stop at the gatehouse inside the garage for directions and a parking permit.

Coming from the East:

Coming from the east use State Route 520. Take the Montlake Boulevard exit. Continue north on Montlake Blvd. and cross the drawbridge. At the first traffic light after the bridge, turn left onto NE Pacific Street. Proceed west on NE Pacific (http://bit.ly/4z8qG) to 15th Avenue NE. Turn right and head north on 15th Avenue to NE 41st Street. Turn right at Gate #1 into the Central Plaza Garage
(http://is.gd/12aHU). Stop at the gatehouse inside the garage for directions and a parking permit.

**AIRPORT AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION**


Airport Transportation Options:

**Shuttle Express** (http://bit.ly/Bs5FZ) offers frequent operation between the airport and any Seattle destination you request. It is suggested for transportation from the airport to the hotels downtown or in the university area. The rate ranges from $19.00 to $28.00 for a one-way trip. For reservations call (425) 981-7000 or go online to make reservations (http://bit.ly/15Oude).

To find Shuttle Express: After you have collected your luggage, follow the signs directing you to ground transportation which is located on the 3rd floor of the parking garage. The 3rd floor is the same level as the baggage claim and lower drive level. To get across the lower drive you must proceed up one floor via escalator or elevator and walk across the sky bridge. Once in the garage, proceed to our Shuttle Express booth by following the ground transportation check-in signs. Walk towards the middle and take an escalator or elevator back down one floor to floor three. You will find their booth alongside the Sea-Tac ground transportation information center.

**Seattle Downtown Airporter** (http://bit.ly/GB9Z4) service is operated by Gray Line of Seattle. It offers scheduled service between the airport and the major hotels in downtown Seattle. The rate is $11.00 to $14.00/person one way - $18 to $24.00/person roundtrip. *This service is for select downtown hotels only and does not extend to the University District.*

If your destination is a downtown hotel, tickets are available at the Gray Line of Seattle desk located at the south end of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport main terminal. Follow the signs for Scheduled Airporter Services at Door 00 (zero-zero). The desk is located in the atrium at the south end of the baggage claim, just beyond baggage carousel #1. Tickets for the return trip from downtown to the airport may be purchased on-line, from the Airport Express Drivers, or from a hotel concierge. If departing from a
downtown hotel that is not one of the select drop-off sites, please call for Connector Service at (206) 255-7159 at least one hour prior to your pick up time the same day as your departure.

**Taxi**

All Seattle taxi cabs operate at the same rate, set by King County. The meter drop is $2.50 plus $2.00 per mile. Extra person charges may apply. There is a $28 flat rate from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to downtown Seattle. A trip from the airport to the University District is about $42.00. A $0.50 gas surcharge may apply for rides originating in Seattle.


**LODGING**

**Hotels**

Below are hotels offering discounted rates when you let them know that you are attending the Robotics conference. These discounted room rates are available until the room release date or until they fill whichever comes first. Make sure you let them know you are attending the Robotics conference


4140 Roosevelt Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98105  
206-632-5055; 800-733-3855  
Deluxe Rooms: $155.00 single/double occupancy, plus tax (15.6%)  
Traditional Rooms: $135.00 single/double occupancy, plus tax (15.6%)  
Room release date: Thursday, May 28, 2009
4242 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, WA 98105
206-826-4242; 866-944-4242
Studios: $179 single/double occupancy, plus tax (15.6%)
$10.00 additional adult charge
Room release date: Thursday, May 28, 2009

5036 25th Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98105
206-526-5200; 800-205-6940
One King, double occupancy: $139 plus tax (15.6%)
Two Queens, double occupancy: $149.00 plus tax (15.6%)
King mini suite $169.00 plus tax (15.6%)
$15.00 extra person charge
Room release date: Thursday, May 28, 2009

A special package has been created to provide campus housing and food services for conference participants.
Reservations are accepted on a space-available basis. Early reservations are strongly encouraged.
The package includes
- 2 nights housing in University Facilities (June 29 and 30, 2009)
- $36.20 on a debit meal card for use at University Food Service facilities
- Non-refundable $20 reservation fee
Single: $175.82
Double: $132.42
These prices include the reservation fee and applicable taxes. The package plan has fixed dates meal service and may not be altered.
There is no credit for shorter stays or unused dining money.
Limited Early arrival nights are available for Saturday, 6/27 and Sunday, 6/28
Limited Late arrival nights are available for Wednesday 7/1, Thursday 7/2 and Friday 7/3
Single: $68.00 per person per night
Double: $46.30 per person per night
Meals are not included in the Early/Late arrival housing.
Deadline to reserve this package: Monday, June 8, 2009.
BANQUET AT KIANA LODGE

Included in your registration fee is a banquet on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 at the historic Kiana Lodge. A chartered boat will pick you up at the Seattle waterfront (there will be transportation to the waterfront from campus). Once on the boat, you will enjoy a harbor cruise on the way to the Kiana Lodge located on the Kitsap Peninsula. You will be served a traditional Northwest Salmon dinner. The return cruise features views of Seattle's night time skyline from the waters of Elliott Bay. This excursion is complimentary with registration.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS

Seattle Center,
400 Broad St.; 206.905.2100;
A 41-second elevator ride takes you up 520 feet to the observation deck of the Space Needle, built for the 1962 World's Fair. Enjoy a meal at SkyCity, the restaurant at the top that revolves 360° while you dine.

Seattle Center,
325 5th Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98109
1-877.EMP.SFM1
Experience Music Project (EMP) is dedicated to the exploration of creativity and innovation in popular music. By blending interpretative, interactive exhibitions with cutting-edge technology, EMP captures and reflects the essence of rock ‘n’ roll, its roots in jazz, soul, gospel, country and the blues, as well as rock’s influence on hip-hop, punk and other recent genres. Visitors can view rare artifacts and memorabilia and experience the creative process by listening to musicians tell their own stories. The adjoining Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame (SFM) is the world's first museum devoted to the thought-provoking ideas and experiences of science fiction. SFM’s exhibitions promote awareness and appreciation of science fiction.
literature and media while encouraging visitors to envision new futures for humanity. In the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, the museum pays homage to the most respected of science fiction practitioners—writers, artists, publishers and filmmakers.

Near downtown Seattle
Between First Ave. and Western, from Pike to Virginia streets
Born in 1907, Seattle's Pike Place Market is the granddaddy of farmers' markets. Today, it's a major tourist attraction with 200 businesses operating year-round, 190 craftspeople and 120 farmer booths - plus street performers and musicians. Flowers by the bucketful, flying fish, fresh pastries and fruit, handmade cheeses, local honey, wine, an assortment of restaurants, import goods, antiques, collectibles and lots of surprises are around every corner.

The Seattle Waterfront (http://is.gd/17G8o)
Near Pike Place Market
Piers 52 to 70 on Alaskan Way
A bustling collection of attractions, restaurants and shopping, as well as starting points for ferries, cruise ships, the Victoria Clipper and Argosy boat tours are located here. Feed the seagulls at the statue of Ivar Haglund in front of Ivar's Acres of Clams, stroll by the fountains on the wooden piers of Waterfront Park, admire the view or shop for souvenirs.

516 Broad St, Seattle
206.441.DUCK (3825)
Tour Seattle by land and water on a WWII amphibious landing craft. This 90-minute adventure tour will have you "quacking up" through the streets of Seattle. You'll see the major sights of the Emerald City on land before you head out to the funky Fremont neighborhood where you'll splash into Lake Union.

Pier 59
206.386.4300
Meet Alki, the sea otter pup born at the Aquarium. Walk under the water in a glass dome as bluntnose sixgill sharks and other Elliott Bay creatures swim all around you.

20 June 2009
Touch a sea anemone. Learn about the lives of salmon at the world's first aquarium-based salmon ladder. Marvel at the impossibly bright-colored coral reef fish. And don't forget to wave to the giant Pacific octopus.

Ferry Rides (http://bit.ly/TQwJU)
At the Piers (see above)
Traveling by ferry is a state of mind as much as a means of transportation to some of the Puget Sound's most historic and scenic sites. Views of the Olympic and Cascade mountains, the Seattle cityscape and the green shorelines will draw you out onto the deck to feel the salt breeze on your face. The state ferry system takes passengers and their vehicles from Seattle and nearby departure points to Vashon Island, the Kitsap Peninsula, the San Juan Islands and Canada.

Near downtown Seattle
One of many Seattle neighborhoods (http://bit.ly/4xEt1), Pioneer Square features over 20 city blocks of Victorian Romanesque architecture, more than 30 fine art galleries, over 200 unique and independently-owned shops, and the entertainment epicenter of Seattle's nightlife. Hungry? Your tastebuds will thank you for exploring the rich flavors of the Square's many restaurants, bars, and coffee houses.
Near Pioneer Square
608 First Ave.
206.682.4646
After the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, the city was rebuilt over the top of the ruins. This guided tour takes visitors through the hidden subterranean passages that once were the main roadways and storefronts of old downtown Seattle and tells stories of the frontier people who lived and worked there.

The Seattle Public Library (http://bit.ly/zDJT)
Near downtown Seattle
1000 Fourth Ave.
206.386.4636
Designed by world-renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, the award-winning glass and steel structure of the new Central Library makes the building seem a little off-kilter and translucent - allowing passersby on the street to look in.

Canoeing near UW waterfront (http://is.gd/12aRE)
(206) 543-9433
Open to students, faculty/staff, alumni and the general public. Must be 18 years of age and older with valid ID to rent a canoe or rowboat. Boat restrictions: maximum 3 in a canoe and 4 in a rowboat.

20-min drive from UW
The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks are always a great attraction. Late spring/early summer is a great time to enjoy the beautiful Carl S. English, Jr. Botanical Garden. The gift shop in the visitor center has a wonderful garden pamphlet which will help you find many of the rare and exotic plants waiting to be discovered. Every trip to the Locks should include a walk in the garden, watching the boats, visiting the fish ladder, and exploring the exhibits and gift shop. This is a place "where the activity never stops!"

20 June 2009
In Everett (35-min drive from UW)

The Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour debuted in December 2005. With developments in aviation technology coming at an ever-quickening pace, The Boeing Company, Future of Flight Foundation, Snohomish County Public Facilities District and the Snohomish County Airport (Paine Field) joined forces to create a unique interpretive center so visitors could glimpse the future of commercial aviation. By incorporating and expanding the existing Boeing Tour, the Future of Flight offers a remarkable opportunity to see both commercial jet production today and the direction aviation is headed in the future.

15-minute drive from UW
South Gate: 750 N. 50th St
206.684.4800
See more than 1,000 animals of 300 different species, from elephants and gorillas to piranhas and penguins, in naturalistic exhibits at the Woodland Park Zoo. Drop by at scheduled feeding times and talk with the people who care for the animals.

Blake Island
206.933.8600
A short, narrated cruise takes you to an island village, where you'll feast on salmon cooked in the authentic Native American way. A stage show of traditional dances and stories entertains and teaches you about the people who lived in the Northwest first.

The Burke-Gilman Trail is a popular recreational trail for walkers, runners, cyclists, skaters and commuters. The bike trail that made Seattle famous: 14 miles of paved trail from Fremont to Kenmore, linking to the Sammamish River Trail. The trail runs right through UW campus!

Day trips and drivable destinations
(http://bit.ly/K3ERd)
Mount Rainier
Mount St. Helens
San Juan Islands
Cascade mountains
Olympic mountains
Snoqualmie falls
Victoria and Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Explore the online Visitors Guide (http://bit.ly/N3S), courtesy of Seattle Convention and Visitors Bureau, for an extensive listing of local highlights, day trips and places of interest a little farther away.

MORE MAPS
Courtesy of Seattle Convention and Visitors Bureau

Map of greater Seattle area: http://bit.ly/nIm23
Other area maps: http://bit.ly/14i06L

GETTING AROUND SEATTLE
Seattle has an excellent bus system. A large number of buses run through UW campus and along the outer boundaries, especially University Ave and 15 Ave. These connect to almost all parts of the city and beyond. Plan your trip at: http://transit.metrokc.gov/

Other options are taxi, renting a car, or biking (see Burke-Gilman Trail above).