



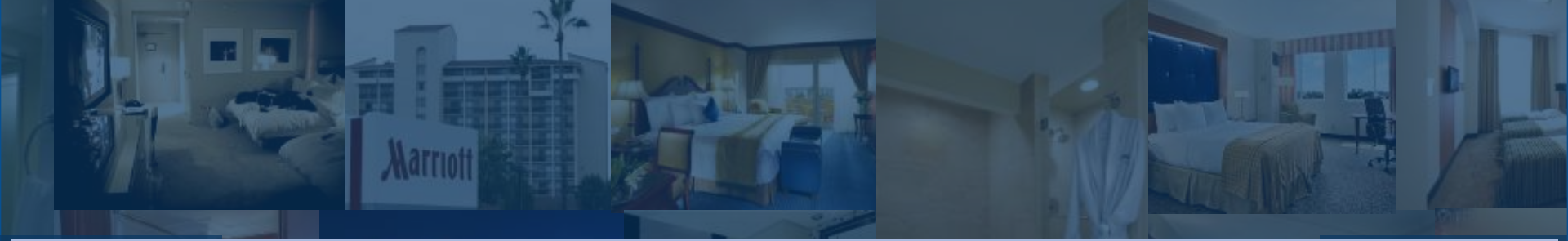
# How to Con: Staying in a Hotel

By  
dj Date Masamune

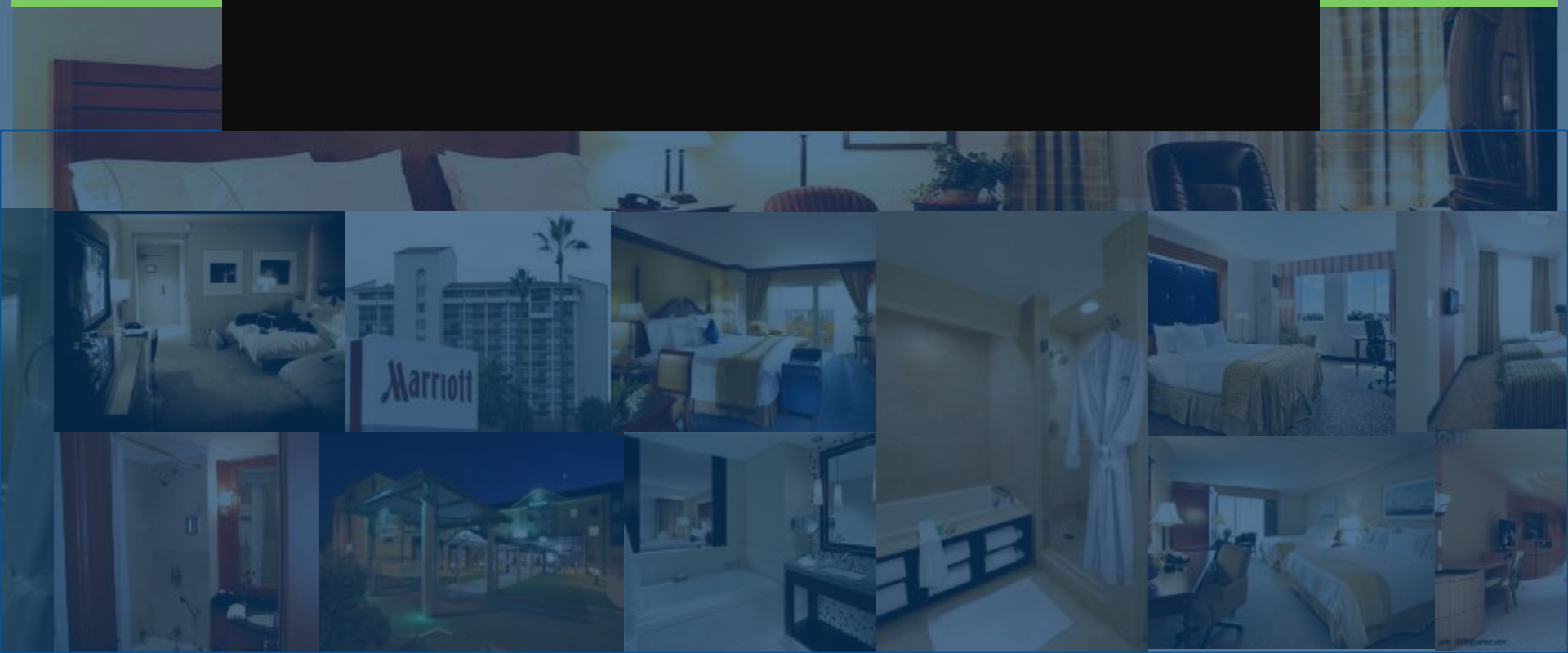


# Disclaimers

- Panel will be available online as well as a list of all my resources!
  - On my blog (see handout)
- Contact info./handouts
  - Take a business card/handout before you leave
    - Even if you leave mid-way, feel free to get one before you go
- Open to comments/questions throughout the panel
- Appreciate & love all feedback!
  - E-mail, blog, e-mail form on blog, con feedback session, con feedback forums, etc.



# Reserving a Room



- Do it as early as possible
  - Try to get that con rate
  - Keep checking back
    - Or follow them on Twitter, sign up for newsletters, FB page, etc.
- They have blocks, not the entire hotel
  - However, may be possible to still get a room in the hotel, possibly even cheaper, w/o the con rate
  - A con gets a set no. of rooms set aside for con attendees that they have to fill less the tab's on them for the unfilled rooms
    - Not the entire hotel, so not every hotel guest is a con attendee; so don't be an annoying little s\*\*t b/c 'you're around your ppl.'
    - Your "own ppl." won't be able to stand you



- Keep checking the con site to see when you can book a room
  - Otakon 2013's hotel booking opened up less than a week after the con (& it was soon quickly running out of rooms)
    - The bigger the con, the earlier you need to book/the more anal you need to be about it
    - Especially with big time cons like comic cons
- Try to get an early check in
  - Less you have to stand around the con till 4p before you can deposit your stuff in the room
    - Like my Otakon 2013 exp. >.>

- Know what you're getting yourself into
  - What do the hotel rooms look like, ratings, complaints, area it's in, etc.
    - Definitely look up restaurants/food places/stores in the area
      - Nice to know ahead of time there's a Michaels in the area
- When reserving, can call the hotel directly, travel agent, or book online
  - If calling to book, best to call in the afternoon or later
    - Hectic in the morning with ppl. checking out

- Best to do it online or by agent
- Agents can net you great deals
  - Agent fee determined by trip costs, but only when plane tickets are involved
    - They usually don't charge anything, they make commissions off the companies they deal with when planning your trip
    - Either way, ask what these fees are upfront
- Easiest/less complicated way is either online or by phone
  - Especially when using rewards, special deals, or the con rate
    - But you can't stack rewards online, with the exception of hotel rewards with one other; in this case, call to add these rates to the reservation
  - Use the hotel's site
    - If you have issues, the hotel is obligated to help you find another room (more on that later)

- Bring a copy of your reservation, just in case
  - & guard it with your LYFE!
    - ‘Cause poor literacy is *kewl!*
    - Or have a copy on your smartphone



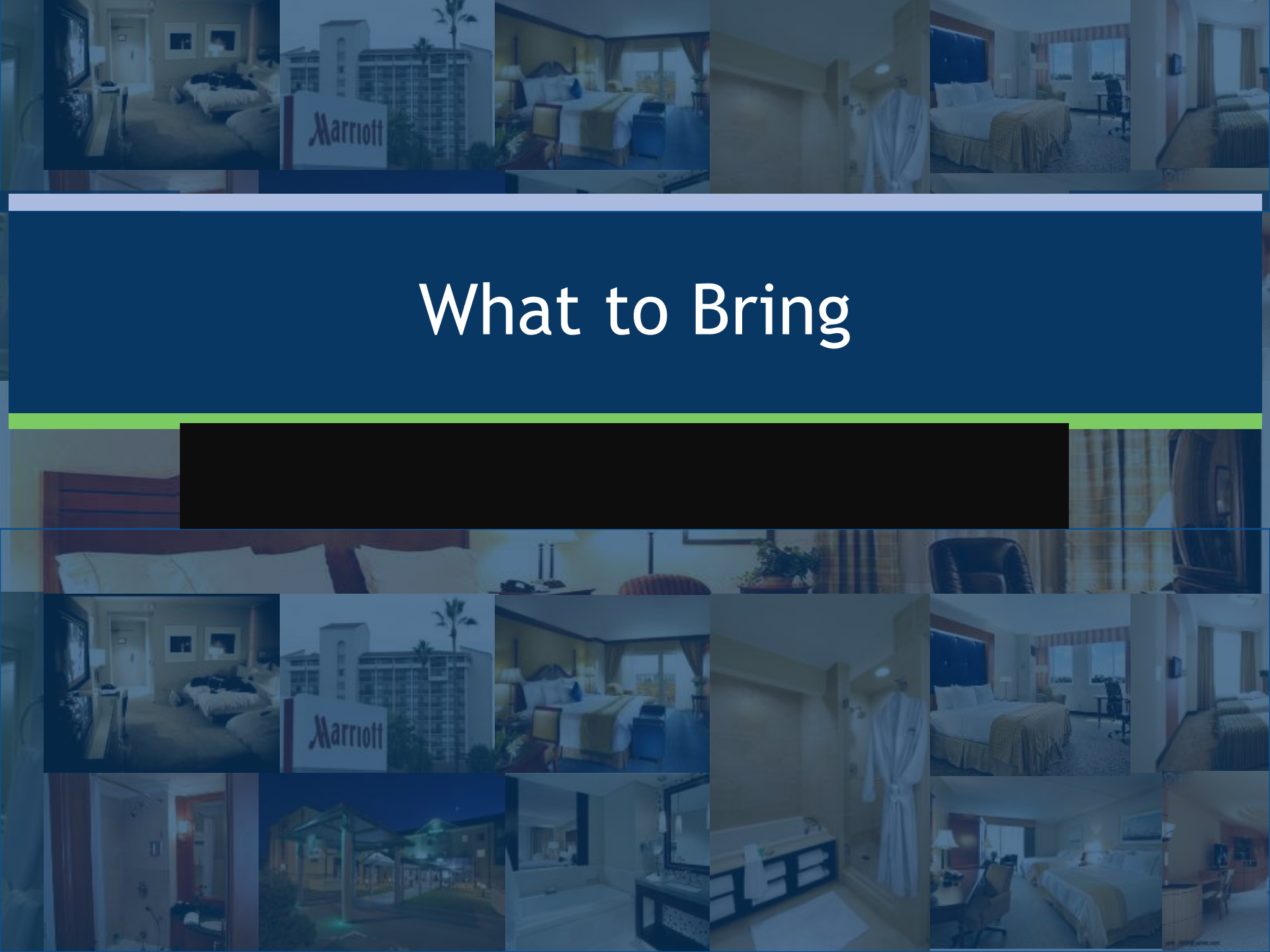
- Hotels only guarantee reservations when there's a credit/debit card on file
- Otherwise, if they lose the reservation, it's on you to find another room
  - Also, if you arrive too late/hotel starts filling up, chance of not getting a room

- Most/all hotels will let you pay upfront w/ cash
  - But there's no guarantee for the room if trying to book ahead of time
  - They will give it away if a paying customer comes in and they don't have the space
- If necessary, request a lower room floor (especially for the claustrophobic)
  - Granted, higher floors are better for taking the elevators since they start at the top than go to the lower floors (when on its way up)

- Discuss with the group close to the con what times ppl. are going to be getting in; granted, you should volunteer this info. up front
  - Also, whoever's in charge of the room, tell ppl. when check in time is
  - If someone's getting there earlier than the matron of the room...
  - Put their name on the room so they can get their key
    - Granted, better just to get there after the room matron in case there are problems/wait for the matron
    - Just mill about the con until they get there
  - May want to arrive later than the room matron
    - If your name's not on the reservation, you can't get in
      - Hotel reservations ask how many bodies are going to be in the room, but you don't have to list the names of others on the reservation upfront (most times)

- Additionally, be mindful of the hotel's policy when it comes to switching out the name on the reservation + check in
  - Can you have multiple ppl. on the reservation & any of them can check-in?
  - Can you only have one name on the reservation at a time?
  - Who in the room can you trust to check in?
  - Etc.

# What to Bring





- Checklists!

- Before packing up, make a checklist of all the things you plan to bring & leave space to add more stuff later
- Especially for cosplays

- The least bit possible

- Take into account how many ppl. will be in the room
- Don't need to bring your entire wardrobe with you
  - Especially freakin' cosplayers ~.~
  - Trust me, guys do it too

- Don't crowd the room with all your cosplay stuff
  - You aren't the only one cosplaying/you can only wear so many costumes
    - *Seriously please tell me the point of bringing 10 cosplays to a 3-day con & you aren't wearing them to anything specific???*
- Your own towels, wash cloth, soap, & the like
  - Means you put less stress on the hotel cleaning staff for towels
    - i.e., raise less suspicion that there are more ppl. in the room than what there should be
    - Could also re-use the same hotel towel
  - Ppl. tend to be towel wh\*res ~.~

- Toiletries

- Wash cloth
- Soap
- Perfume
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Wipes
- Pill case
- ~~Towel(?)~~
- Shower cap(s)!
- Face lotion
- Memory foam pillow

- Extras

- Suit bag
  - For Kiritsugu
- D5
- ~~POP~~
- Other purple wristlet
- Febreeze!!
- Downy
- Fate/Zero Drawstring bag
- Black duct tape
- Black electrical tape
- Black ribbon
- Scissors
- Hand sanitizer
- Camera
- Pink Purse

Anything Else?

	Pills/pill case	Nose spray
White duct tape		

- Costumes

- Kiritsugu Emiya

- Black trench coat
- Grey collared shirt
- Black vest
- Black tie
- Black pants
  - (belt)
- Wig
- Wig foam head
- Command seals
- Guns (3, maybe 4)
  - Separate one for Walther(!)
- Gun case!!
- Dark brown shoes

- Coden/ Venom

- ~~Chest, arm, leg, & foot armor~~
- ~~Helmet~~
- ~~Knife~~
- ~~Lights~~
- ~~Gloves(?)~~

- Rin Tohsaka (wearing to con)

- 2 Black ribbons + hair extensions (use hair ties to connect to own hair)
- Red turtle neck shirt (with white tape cross)
- Black skirt
- Black thigh highs

Also, cosplay checklists (less you forget the quintessential piece of your outfit)

- Other stuff to consider

- Lysol & Clorox wipes/spray

- Clean the f\*\*\* out the bathroom & anything that you will be touching

- Febreeze

- Just b/c you wash, doesn't mean you'll smell good; your clothes also have to be clean/smell somewhat decent

- Doesn't hurt to wash clothes before you pack

- If you smell like a cool summer's breeze after you wash, that will be completely negated by your s\*\*t smelling clothes

- Tide-to-go pen

- Holy goodness is this good for getting out stains
- They're portable, they dry relatively quickly, & are fairly cheap
- Especially awesome if you have an all white cosplay



- Travel size downy spray
  - To get the wrinkles out your clothes
- Wipes
  - Hotel toilet paper will ruin your bottom >.>
- Meds & pill case
  - Makes it easier to organize your meds & it doesn't cost all that much to get vs. bringing your medicine cabinet
  - Also Aleve, Tylenol, Motrin, whatever OTC pain relievers in case you get a headache, start feeling sick, etc.
- Toiletry bag
  - Keep all your crap together & makes it easy to pack stuff up & not have others mistakenly use your stuff/separate your stuff





- Shower caps
  - Hotel shower caps, like hotel soap, sucks
    - They're very flimsy & not that big
- Dry shampoo
  - To get the oiliness out your hair without having to wash it
- Your own pillow
  - If you have to use certain pillows to sleep well/support or just 'cause
- (For ladies)
  - 'Napkins'
    - When that raggedy b\*\*\*h decides to make a surprise visit X/
  - Male deodorant
    - Lasts way longer & is way stronger than women's deodorant

# Filling A Room





# First & Foremost

- COMMUNICATION!!
- Most roommate, hosting, searching, etc. issues come down to this
- You don't need to share your life story, but tell your roommates/host(s) all pertinent information that will effect you staying in a hotel/going to a con
  - It should never be like pulling teeth between either party
- In general, reply back to PMs, e-mails, posts, etc. ASAP
  - Especially as the con get closer, some things are super time sensitive

- Have to be a hard-a\$\$ when figuring out who's in the room
  - Don't count Sally/Marky who would 'love to go' but you both know they don't have the money
    - Even worse when you're on forums & ppl. do this
      - If you do, *STAHP!*



- A lot of ppl. have money issues, nobody's going to feel sorry for you & give you money/cover your part of the room, don't try to join in on someone else's parade if you can't afford it
  - If you're friends, puts everyone in an awkward spot
  - If you can't afford the con, don't go, no one wants to deal with your pissy poor whiny a\*\* ~.~

- In my opinion, \$\$\$ only, don't try that bartering crap  
~.~
  - If you *insist* on doing this, make your own forum/Facebook post, don't comment on other ppl.'s stuff (unless the posts states otherwise)
- When you're looking for ppl. to fill a room, don't hesitate to look around the forums to seek out others who are looking for a room vs. waiting for them to come to you

- Friends

- Figure out who you want to add to the room

- Some ppl. may be your friends but you would never want to stay with them

- Friends vs. forum ppl.

- You know your friends (& how much they suck); crapshoot of ppl. on the forums (but could be your best friends for now 'til forevs)

- Collect \$\$\$ from them at least a week before the con

- Meet in person, Paypal, whatever

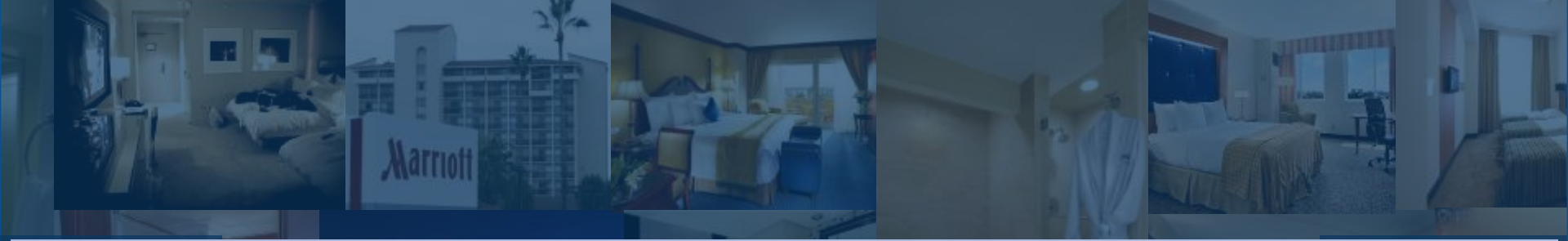
- Forums

- For room shares, assume you pay the whole part, however much it is for a person, not a portion
  - Example: if you're only going to be in for 2 days or Fri.-Sat. vs. Thurs.-Sun.; you still have to pay the \$80/person like everyone else
  - You could try to talk it out with the person who's trying to fill the room but you're almost better off booking your own room & posting it for others who'll be staying for a couple days/1 night
- Keep in mind, if you fill a room w/ a group of friends, possibility of problems

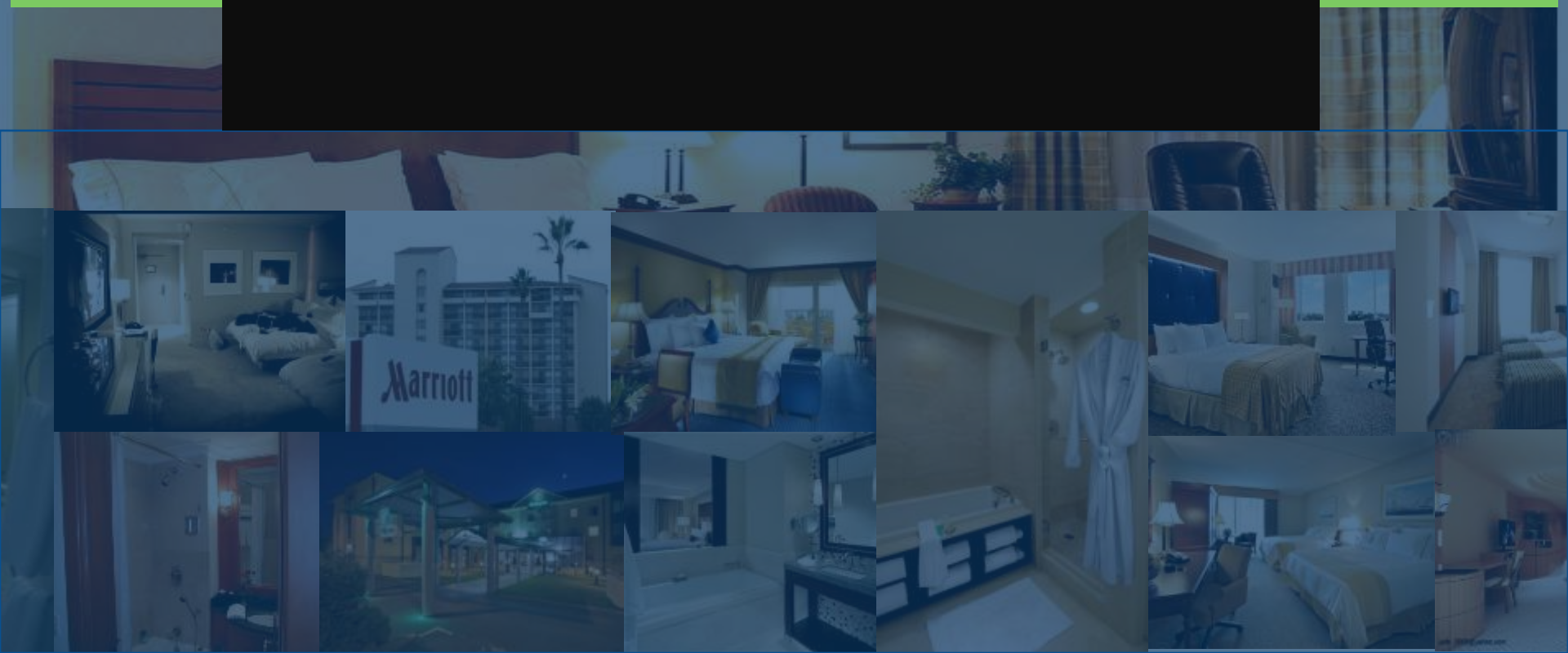
- Set up a detailed forum thread posting all the need-to-knows about your room, who can get in, price-person breakdowns, etc.
  - (example)
- Really make sure to list your room requirements
  - Women only, men only, 18+, 21+, & the like
- The ppl. you wind up rooming with @ cons could wind up being your friends for life/room with them for multiple cons
  - Or arch nemesis ~.~



- If it's a situation where the person wants the money up front, you still could try asking if they'll take the money at the hotel
  - However, may receive a 'no'
- Have the courtesy to let ppl. know if you found another room & won't be staying with them
  - Why I like to do payment upfront, b/c the best way to guarantee your spot in a room is your monetary commitment
  - Granted, you shouldn't express interest in a room until you're absolutely sure & if you're not let them know that ASAP



# Collecting \$\$\$



- Friends = @ least a week before the con; ppl. on forums = Paypal/Western Union **or** @ the con (before you give them a room key/let them in the room)
- Ppl. from the forums
  - @ the con
    - Make sure to establish that ppl. won't get room keys/be let in the room until they pay
    - Unless you discuss possibly paying a little later Thurs./Fri. beforehand with the person in charge of the room, that's on you

- Western Union

- Western Union = \$5 fee

- Multiple ways to do this, the site will walk you through what you need to do

- Paypal

- Paypal = d\*uchebags

- Paypal: Deposit \$\$\$ into your account as soon as post to Paypal & don't make any purchases around the time you start collecting money

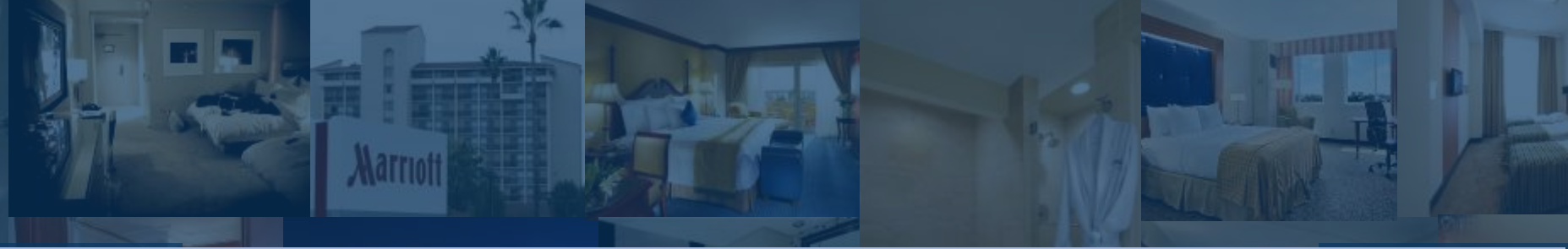
- In both sites' case...

- At least 3+ weeks prior to the con

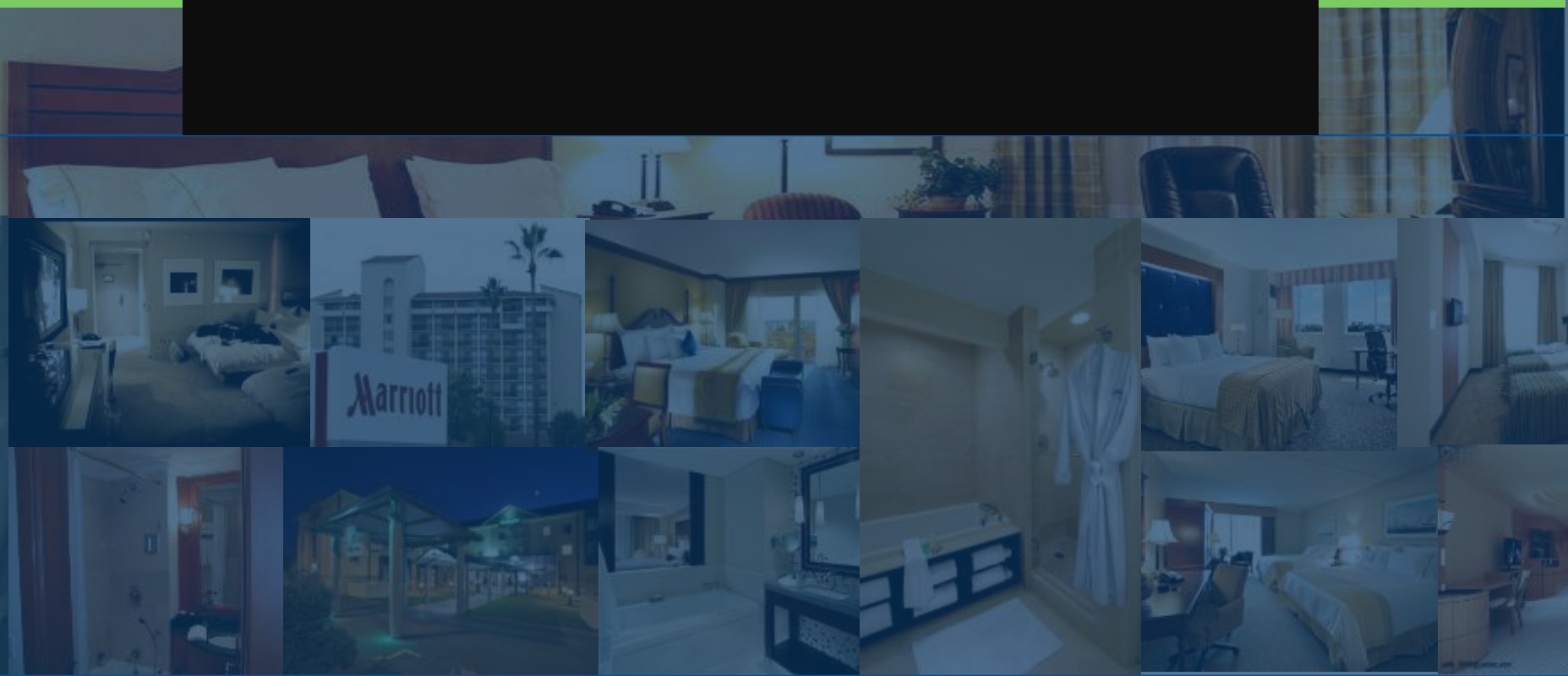
- Enough time to deposit the money in your account, have it take hold, deal with any potential issues from Paypal being d\*\*\*s, & have enough money to clear the charge to your card for the room

- Incidentally, if you don't have enough \$\$\$ on your card to clear the room charge, you'll lose your reservation
  - & possibly wind up w/ no room the day of the con...like some friends of mine Otakons past





# Hotel Facilities



- For nicer hotels (Hilton, Gaylord, Marriott)
  - Usually have a mailing/printing facility
  - May have a hot tub
    - TIME MACHINE!

- Microwaves in hotels can be a real crapshoot
- Usually, high-end ones won't have them, but not always
  - *What's high-end/luxury?*
    - Marriott, Gaylord, Hilton, Hyatt, just to name a few
    - If you don't know these things, don't pretend like you know on the forums, holy jeebus >.<\*
- Same goes for refrigerators
  - May be able to get one at an extra cost for medication purposes

- Mostly the low-end hotels do that (but not always)
  - Granted, that's not saying these 'hotels suck' but they are on the cheaper end as far as hoteling is concerned
- The logic behind this is to force you to spend money in the area (why else would you have a high-end hotel in a snazzy restaurant & store filled area?)
  - That's the businessman's truth, this isn't speculation that's how the game's played

- Food in a hotel

- Best to bring things that don't need to be refrigerated
- Or wing it w/ a George Forman grill, blender, electric tea kettle, etc.
  - For making hot foods
  - But you'll need a cooler
  - That much more stuff to bring; bad idea when you're driving a lot of ppl./not driving at all



- Room service

- Hotel food is usually pretty expensive

- Try to eat around the area if there are decent options

- Don't leave room service trays in the hallway

- Nobody wants to see that & it gets in the way, just call the front desk & have them take it back but leave it in the room

- Complimentary breakfast/continental breakfast

- Check in to see if your hotel offers this beforehand, otherwise that's free breakfast every morning

- Complimentary vs. continental breakfast

- & for the love of God, throw on some clothes & don't come down in your PJs

- What are you, 5, don't do that >.<\*

- You should have better home training than that...your parents should train you better than that -\_-

- Minibars

- Usually expensive
- They have sensors that can tell when the minibar has been opened & will charge you; don't f\*\*k with the minibar
  - *It wants your soul @.@*

- Laundry facilities
  - Can check ahead to see if the hotel you're staying at has this
    - Washing your costume you plan to wear for 3 straight days is a great way to prevent con funk, along with a daily shower with soap & water
  - Sometimes the hotel has dry cleaning service
- In-room safe
- Exercise facilities
- Extra room services (internet, specific channels/movies, food, minibar with the special water, etc.)
  - Usually cost money (not always in the case of internet), talk it out with your roommates, namely the room head, 'cause they usually bill that to the room but if it's not in your name, then don't do it before talking to the room head
    - Usually can pay it separately (go to the front desk)
- Shuttles to airport (sometimes)
  - Call & check beforehand





- Become Facebook friends with everyone who's going to be in the room
  - Helps with screening & recon on ppl. before they room with you
- Don't be afraid to play Mom/Dad/parental figure
  - Another reason why, if you're 21+, you want to room with other 21+ ppl. (hopefully, other mature adults)
  - Not fun to play Mom/Dad to perfect strangers/your friends for a weekend X/
  - If you don't lay down ground rulez, don't be surprised when you have serious problems
- (pre-con) Don't be afraid to kick ppl. out of the room if you have a really bad vibe about them
  - If they already paid, refund their money



- (namely when dealing with rooms filled from the forums) make sure everyone has everyone else's numbers
  - So you can get in touch with each other when need be
    - Especially in cases where not everyone has a room key
- (During the con) Don't be afraid/hesitate to kick ppl. out the room if they're being too rambunctious, you don't feel safe, etc.
  - Make sure you also list this possibility on the forums; however, if you already set up the rules in advance, it should curtail having to do something this drastic
    - *Should*

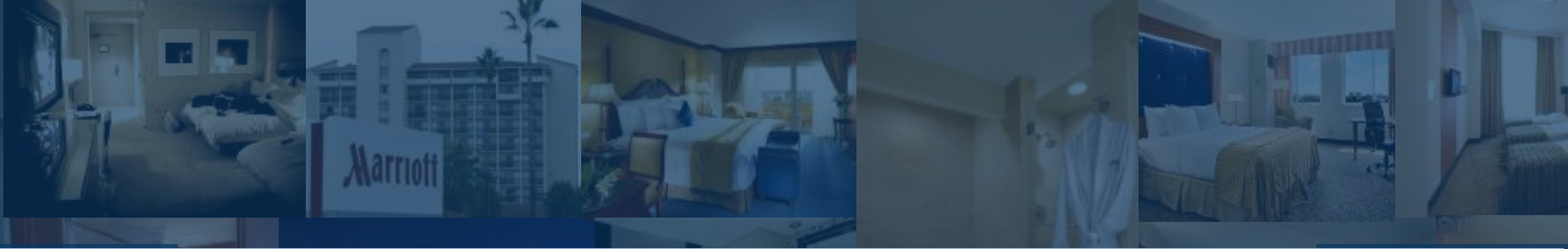
- If you wind up kicking out someone before they step one foot in the door, you as the room matron have to take that extra piece, don't ask your roomies for more \$\$\$ to cover their drop out
  - You can also check back on the forums to see if anyone else needs a room to take their place
  - Granted, if you already have the \$\$\$ & this happens the day of...oh well
    - Have a policy for that prepared & on the original forum posting
    - Make sure to state that on the original forum/Facebook post or some point before ppl. arrive at the con

- Your card's the one being charged, so keep track of all the room charges
  - Tell ppl. to ask you if they want to do something that will be charged to the room
  - & tell them to see if they can pay upfront @ the front desk
- Have to make sure the room is clean come Sunday
  - Less you incur more last minute fees D'B
    - They will charge you a room cleaning fee if the room's in total disarray by the time you leave
- Having a policy about ppl. bringing others in
  - Tell ppl. upfront about that
  - Less ppl. in the room, less worry about stuff 'walking off'

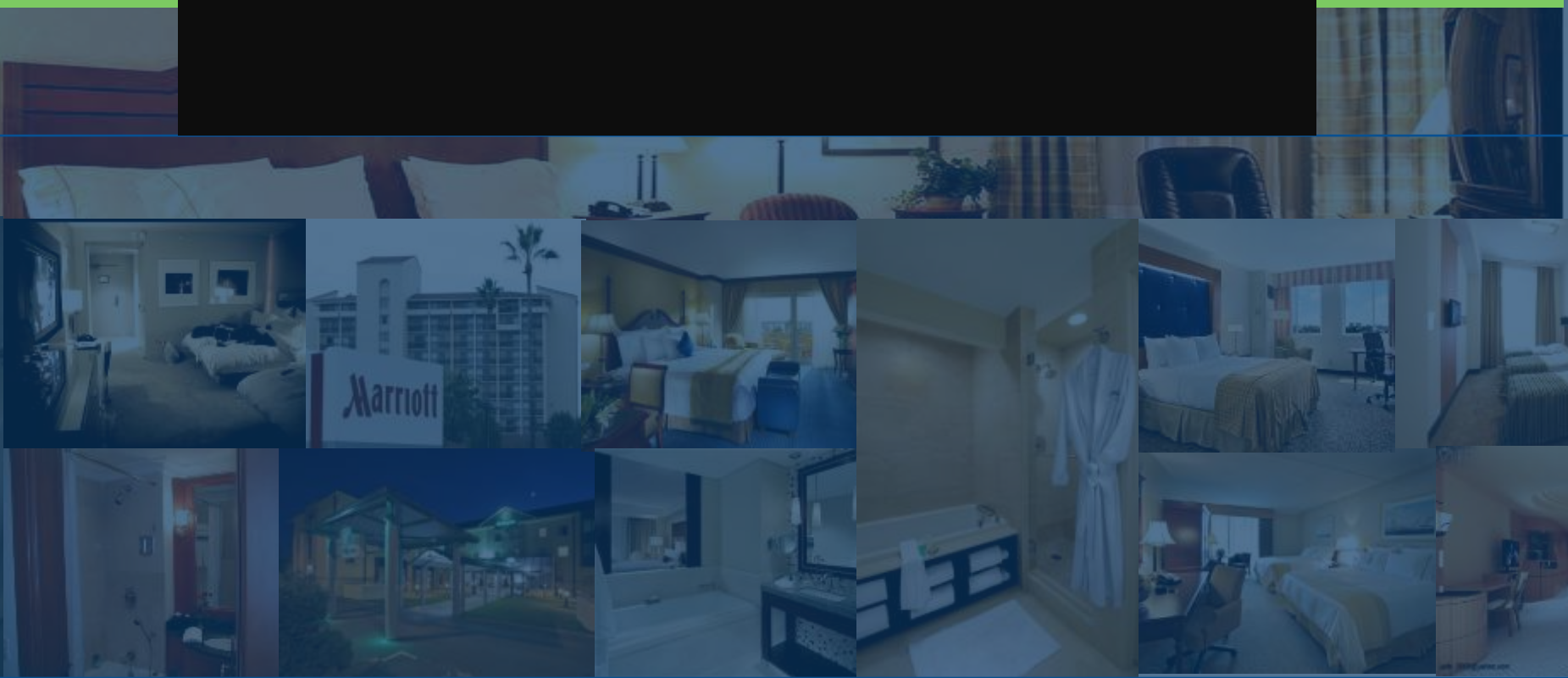
- Make sure sound levels aren't annoying other guests
  - Or you *will* be chastised/kicked out by the hotel, please take this seriously
    - Especially if you're room stuffing/partying/underage drinking (which you shouldn't freakin' do >.>)
- **Pro tip:** want to be the last to leave Sunday
  - To make sure no one left anything & that the room is in a clean enough condition to avoid extra charges

- Again, lay down the law as far as bathroom usage, bringing friends in the room, drinking policy, general room policies, etc. both before & at the con
  - If ppl. know upfront what they're getting into, usually means less problems in the long run
    - Or at least no big ones
- Have to be responsible & not afraid to be a total b\*\*ch/assertive
  - If you're too passive/permissive, no one's going to listen to you; now's the time to let out your inner b\*tch out (when necessary)
  - Like when someone's taking an hour + in the bathroom





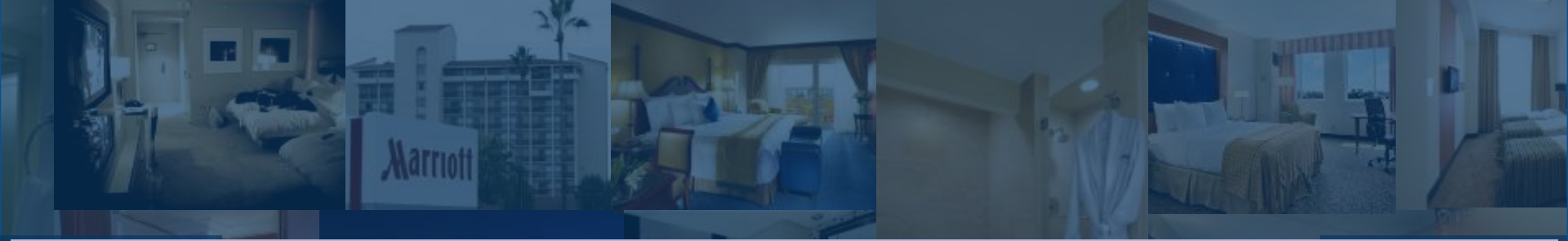
# Being the Room Guest



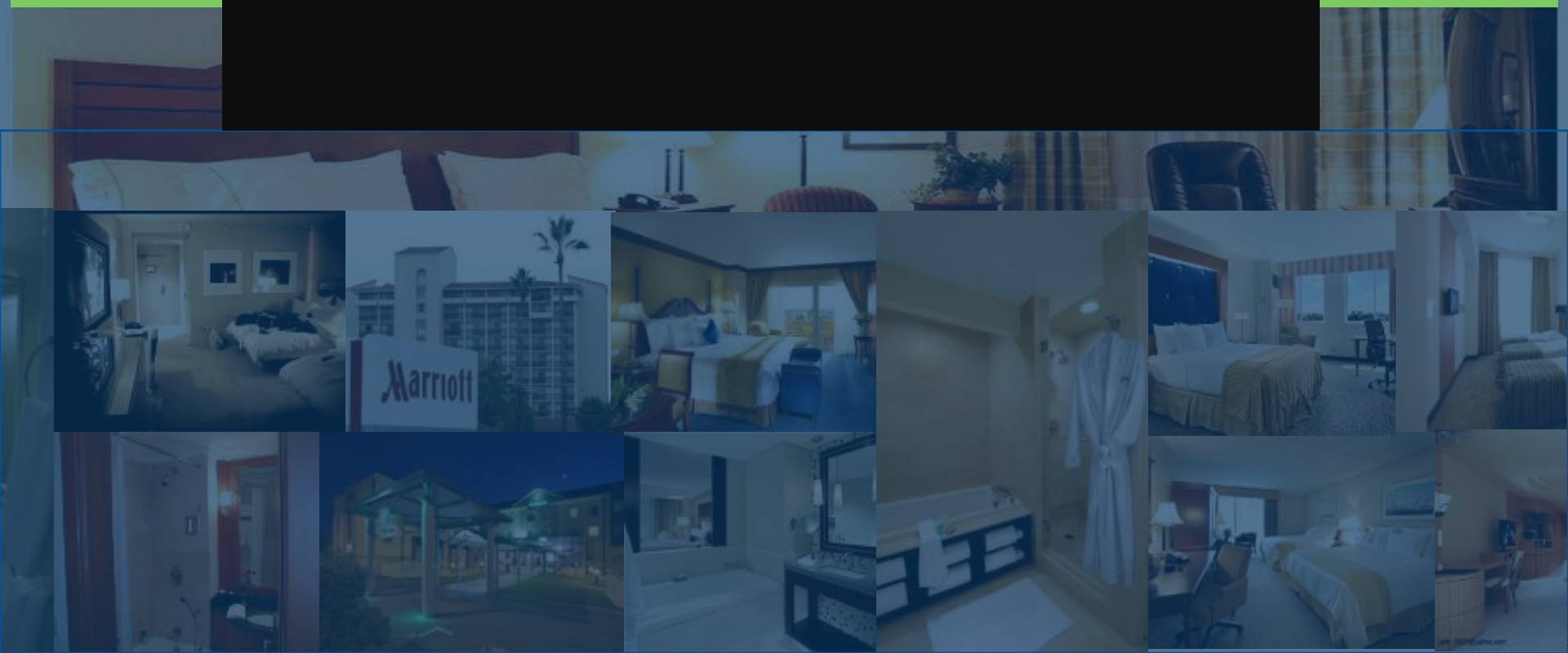
- Pretty simple...
  - Just don't be a d\*\*chebag >.>
  - Listen to the room head's (hopefully reasonable) demands
  - Keep your s\*\*t together
    - Both literally & figuratively
  - Helps not to be picky about where you sleep (bed vs. ...not bed)
    - If you *need* to have a bed, make sure to mention that before committing to anything
  - Don't bring too much stuff
    - Cosplayers...
      - Why it might be a better idea to avoid cosplayer rooms if you aren't one, & look for cosplay encouraged rooms if you are one

# Constant Reminders

- Panel available on my blog (link on handouts)
- I have business cards & other handouts upfront
  - Feel free to take one before you go
- E-mail me feedback/critiques, complaints, flaming, game suggestions, & pics/vids
  - [The.codarl.ii@gmail.com](mailto:The.codarl.ii@gmail.com)



# Staying in the Hotel





- Bed spreads/comforters aren't washed (unless there are stains) which means it could have been months since they've last been washed...think about that & don't use them as make-shift sleeping bags
  - Only the sheets are repeatedly washed as far as bed dressing's are concerned



- Will get a receipt for your room stay on Sunday that shows what you've been charged over your stay & your room balance
  - Also, if they decide to charge you a room keeping fee, they will do it afterwards & it will not reflect on the bill, unless you've been a messy wh\*re Fri. & Sat. night
  - Check to make sure everything is as it should be
    - Definitely make sure everyone's on the same page w/ cleaning up as much as possible come Sunday morning

- Keep your crap confined to your area
  - Especially cosplay stuff
  - You don't need to unpack everything/most things & put them in any free space available
    - That makes it more annoying to pack up & leave Sat. night/Sunday morning
    - Also takes up less space in the room
    - Only put things in the closet that will get severely wrinkled if not hung up
      - Like some super important clothing items/cosplay stuff
- Lock room doors @ night
  - Safety is everything!

- Keep expensive stuff hidden
  - Less it 'magically' disappears
    - Another reason not to bring random ppl. to your room you just met
      - Especially when you're not all that sober
    - Granted, you shouldn't bring valuables you don't need that would upset you if they were stolen/misplaced
      - Emphasis on 'don't need'

- Don't take long in the bathroom
  - Especially if your room's somewhat crowded
    - But not completely stuffed
    - 6 ppl. Vs. 12+
      - Honestly, hotels know the game & can probably look past a room having more than 4 ppl. (if you're not obnoxious a###oles), but 9+ & you're all super annoying...almost guaranteed to get kicked out depending on the hotel/con

- Keep the volume down
  - Less you get kicked out
    - They *will* kick you out/call the cops on you if you're too noisy/rambunctious
- It's best to avoid crowding the sink area with all types of cosmetics, hair stuff, make up, etc.
  - May accidentally permanently stain the bathroom w/ certain make up
  - Makes it easier to lose stuff or have it accidentally taken/used by your roomies
    - God forbid if 2 of you have the same deodorant DX
  - Might be used by roomies if you leave stuff out



- Don't leave any food/drink open
  - Have fun cleaning out rum/soda/juice off your cosplay
- You need to decide where ppl. sleep beforehand
  - If you have more than 4 ppl., better to get that out of the way before you get to the room/before ppl. start picking beds the day of
  - Or be the bitter b\*tch w/o a bed >.>

- If you need more sheets, toilet's clogged, more toilet paper, call the front desk
  - In general, when you have any problems/issues call the front desk
  - But not when it's super late, ain't nobody got time for that
    - Do you like being called 3a or later for foolishness? Neither do they
  - May have to go w/o or go downstairs for stuff
    - Depending, something like toilet paper you can wait till the next morning (if there's tissue still available), a clogged toilet however...

- Don't stuff the room
  - Especially for those who get puke drunk, you definitely don't want to stuff the room to the point ppl. are sleeping in the bathroom
    - i.e., don't sleep in the bathroom for f\*\*k's sake X/
- Your best bet is to bring snack food that's non-perishable
  - Especially if you plan to drink
  - Or you can call the hotel to see if they have a microwave/fridge ahead of time & plan accordingly

- In general, don't depend on the room matron to solve minor quibbles that come up; you should have enough social skills to resolve things amiably on your own
  - Know how to deal with ppl. & minor conflicts
  - Like, somebody taking too long in the bathroom
    - You can ask that person not to do that yourself
  - Don't treat the room matron like an actual mom
- Come Sunday, leave a tip for the maid
  - You can decide amongst your roomies how much per person, but it's common courtesy
    - Just. Freakin'. **Do It X/**

#### HOTEL TIPPING ETIQUETTE

Unless your hotel has already accounted for gratuities, tipping various employees is expected, depending on the amount and quality of the service. Here's a general guide:

- **Bellhop** - \$1 to \$2 per bag (extra if bags are heavy or cumbersome).
- **Coat check** - \$1 to \$2
- **Concierge** - \$2 to \$10 depending on the service; 10 percent of the cost for securing hard to find items like tickets to the theatre or sporting events.
- **Doorman** - \$1 to \$2 for hailing cab (extra in bad weather).
- **Housekeeping** - \$1 to \$2 per night (extra for upscale hotels or if room was particularly messy).
- **Room Service** - 15 percent or at least \$2, unless gratuity is included.
- **Valet** - \$1 to \$2 each time you request your car (extra in bad weather).

- When possible, pack light
  - The less you have, the easier it is to maneuver
    - Not to mention that it takes you only one trip to move your stuff vs. multiple trips & less trips on the elevator
      - I know cosplay stuff can throw these plans out the window
      - Even worse when you have to cart ppl. around
  - The easier it is to keep your stuff out the way
  - Not take up a lot of space in the room
  - Less to keep track of
- Check *EVERYTHING* before you go
- Checkout is typically btwn. 11a & 2p for any given hotel, check with the hotel to find out the exact time
  - & you must be out by the time the maid comes by less they charge you an extra day





- Really need to crack down on bathroom usage
  - If you're just applying make up, you don't need the whole bathroom
    - Usually there's a mirror outside that you can use
- Don't use make up that will permanently stain the tub/mess up the bathroom & room
  - Body paint cosplayers (like Homestuckers)...
    - Make sure to use make up that doesn't easily come off/be careful where you apply it & not to touch a lot of surfaces
      - Don't use cheap body paint
      - Whatever your cosplay may be that incorporates copious amounts of body paint, don't touch anything & don't use such cheap paint
    - Seriously, I've heard several hotels entertain the idea of banning Homestuck cosplayers b/c they mess up the hotel rooms with their body paint so much

- (Again) Try to keep yo' cosplay s\*it confined to one area
  - Don't take up the closet, half the room, & the bathroom with your cosplay stuff
    - You're not & never are the only one cosplaying
    - Unless you decided to get a room by yourself
  - If you're rooming with other ppl., now's **not** the time to bring half the cosplays you've ever done
    - Be humble, you won't have space for that & you will be encroaching on other ppl.'s space for no reason other than you're a selfish wh\*re
    - \*(impart AMA experience)
- Why it's a good idea to room with other cosplayers who're going to be understanding of having cumbersome stuff vs. being the only cosplayer
  - & can help you out with your cosplay issues + can't play selfish room glutton b\*\*\*h



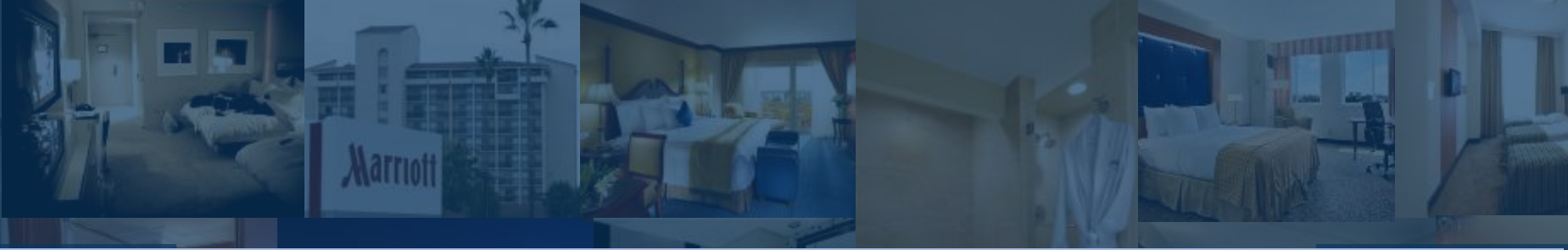
# Rooming with Minors/18+



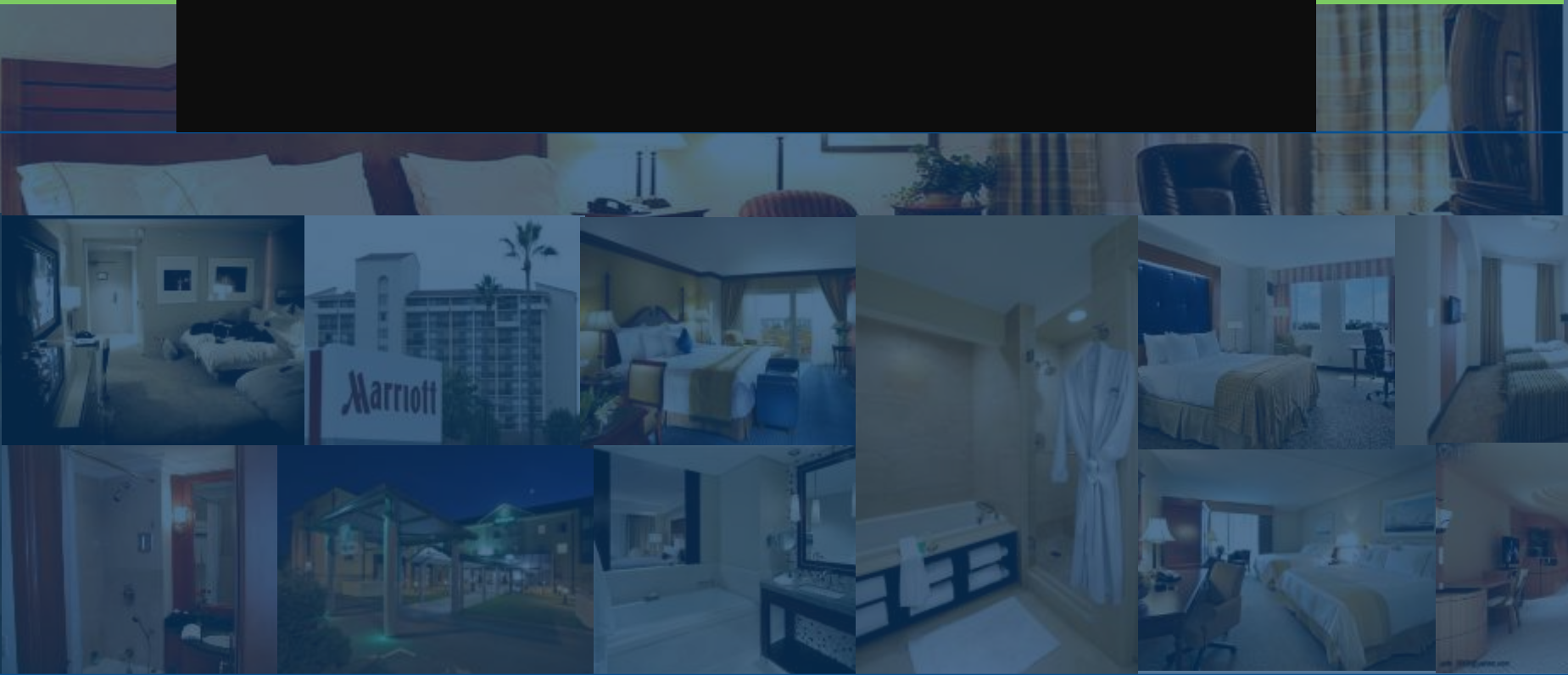
- Generally, want to stick with your age group
  - Relatives being an exception
  - Even then, convince them to bring along someone else around their age
- Especially when filling the rooms via forums & you plan to have alcohol
  - Also, don't lie about your age, in the end it never works out



- Additionally, a person 21+ can hold their liquor/knows their limit a lot more than some punk tweenager (& they shouldn't be drinking in the first place); why have one in your room if you plan to have a party room?
- Also, a Freshman in high school has absolutely nothing in common with someone post college/22+
  - It's not like you can't talk anime/videogames/something else on a more 'shallow' level but that's about it
  - You really don't have anything to talk about
- Typically, tweenagers are going to have the most melodrama
  - Not always, usually; adults can too but not nearly as much
    - Manchild/womanchild notwithstanding



# Room Party?

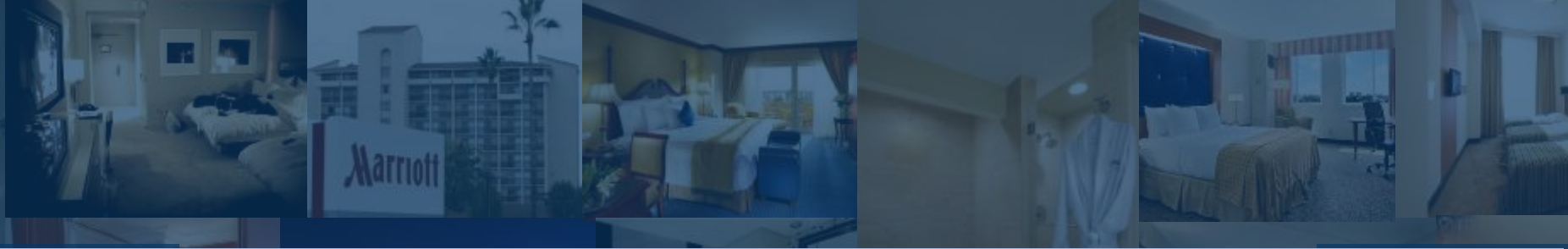


- If you're going to do this, be safe
- Make sure there are *no minors*
  - You might want to consider having someone act as a Bouncer/lookout to make sure minors don't get in
    - Getting in trouble for having a party is one thing, getting caught drinking around minors makes everything exponentially worse
- 'Mixologist'
  - Something to consider, but having someone who actually bartends be the one handling the drinks isn't a bad idea
- Don't let just anybody in
  - All room parties should more or less be private to avoid letting pricks in who'll ruin all the fun/get you in trouble

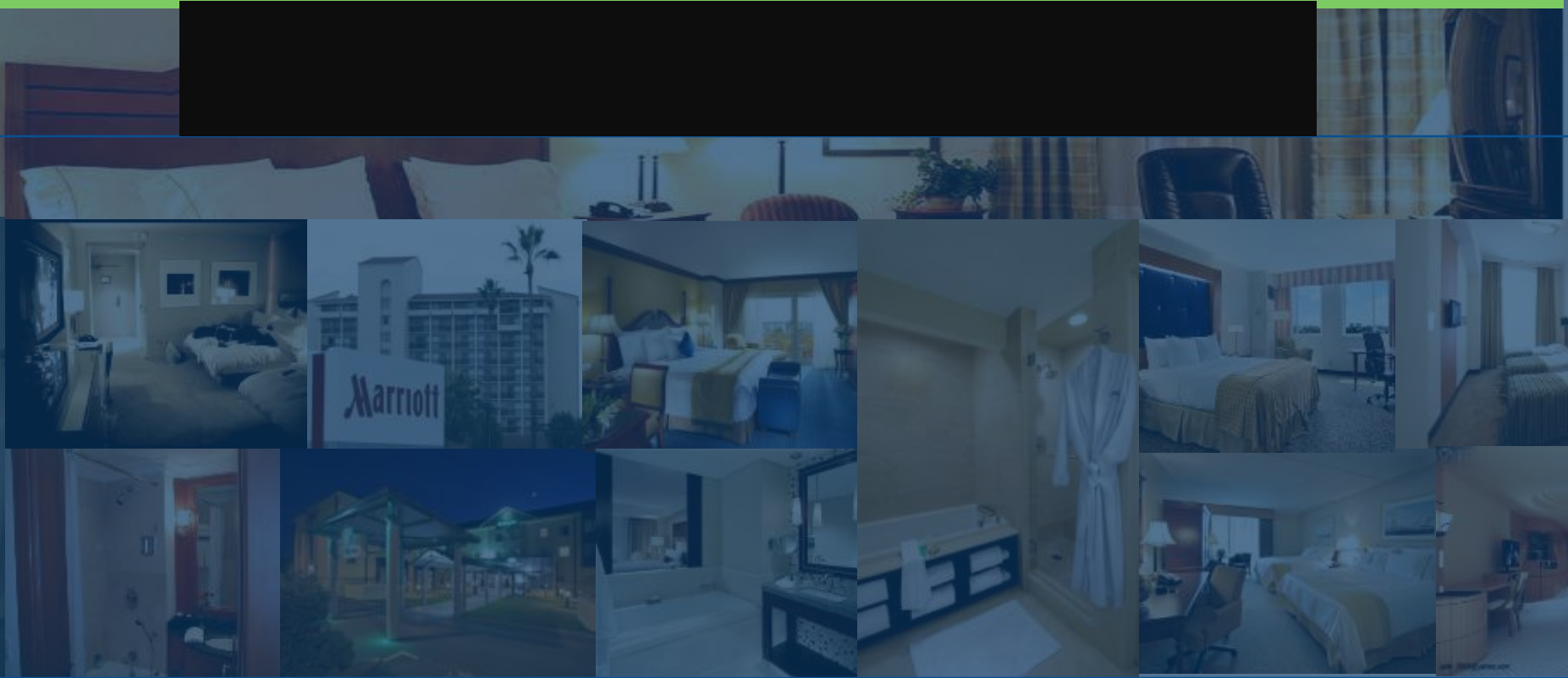
- Best to do something like this in someone else's room & not yours
  - Unless you like playing maid
- Don't be loud obnoxious a—holes & you usually won't have to worry about getting caught/having the fun shut down

- Most importantly, you're **not** supposed to do this
  - So you didn't hear it from me >.>
  - I was just stating...hypotheticals <.<
- Certain conventions/hotels are *very* strict on the 'no room parties' policy & regularly patrol the hallways to make sure they aren't happening
  - *You've been warned*





# Hotel Policies



- How many in a room

- 4 max; granted I usually calculate it at 2/bed, so if there's a rollaway or a couch bed that's 8 ppl. you can comfortably fit in the room

- Usually my math goes 2/bed & an additional body can be comfortably fit in a room

- The main thing: not too many to make it uncomfortable, enough to cut down on the price

- Partying

- “Can’t” do it

- But if you're not being loud, obnoxious a\$\$holes (& the hotel isn't one of those stick-in-the-mud types), nobody's going to be the wiser

- Special needs accommodations

- Check beforehand (call the individual hotel), don't b\*tch & moan to anyone with ears once you get there (too late now)
  - & don't expect to be treated like a prince/princess respectively b/c of this; it's called being humble
    - Yes, hotels should have a way to ease the hotel experience for those who are handicapped; no, that doesn't mean you'll get to be Queen of Bathsheba for a weekend
  - i.e., don't expect elevators to clear out for you 'cause your special needs (& a total b\*tch about it), like Sunday morning check out
- Some have older facilities that aren't handicap friendly, but if you contact the hotel & the appropriate con staff ahead of time, they can work with you
  - Or at least make sure to contact the appropriate ppl. once you get there ASAP

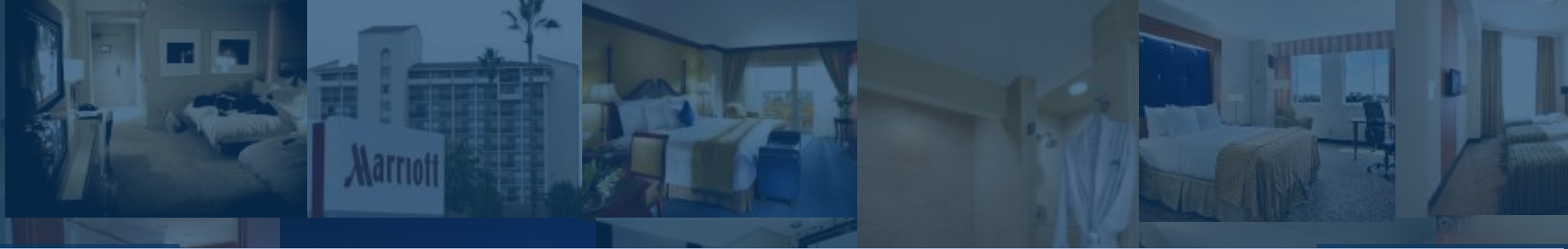
- Really messing up a room
  - If the room is in total disarray by the time you leave Sunday, hotels now charge an extra house cleaning fee
  - If you're the room matron/patron, don't hesitate to emphasize beforehand & on Saturday night/Sunday morning to clean their s\*it up before they leave

- Reserving a room with cash, check, credit card
  - Credit = guaranteed reservation/room
  - Cash = hotels will let you pay for the room upfront but there's no guarantee on the room (very dangerous game to play with)/reserve a room when you get there
  - Check = usually hotels don't take checks, of course you can check beforehand
    - Same deal as cash
  - When they charge your card
    - Typically, the day of the reservation/check-in
    - Not always, call & check @ the individual hotel, chat room option, e-mail, whatever tickles your fancy to check their policy

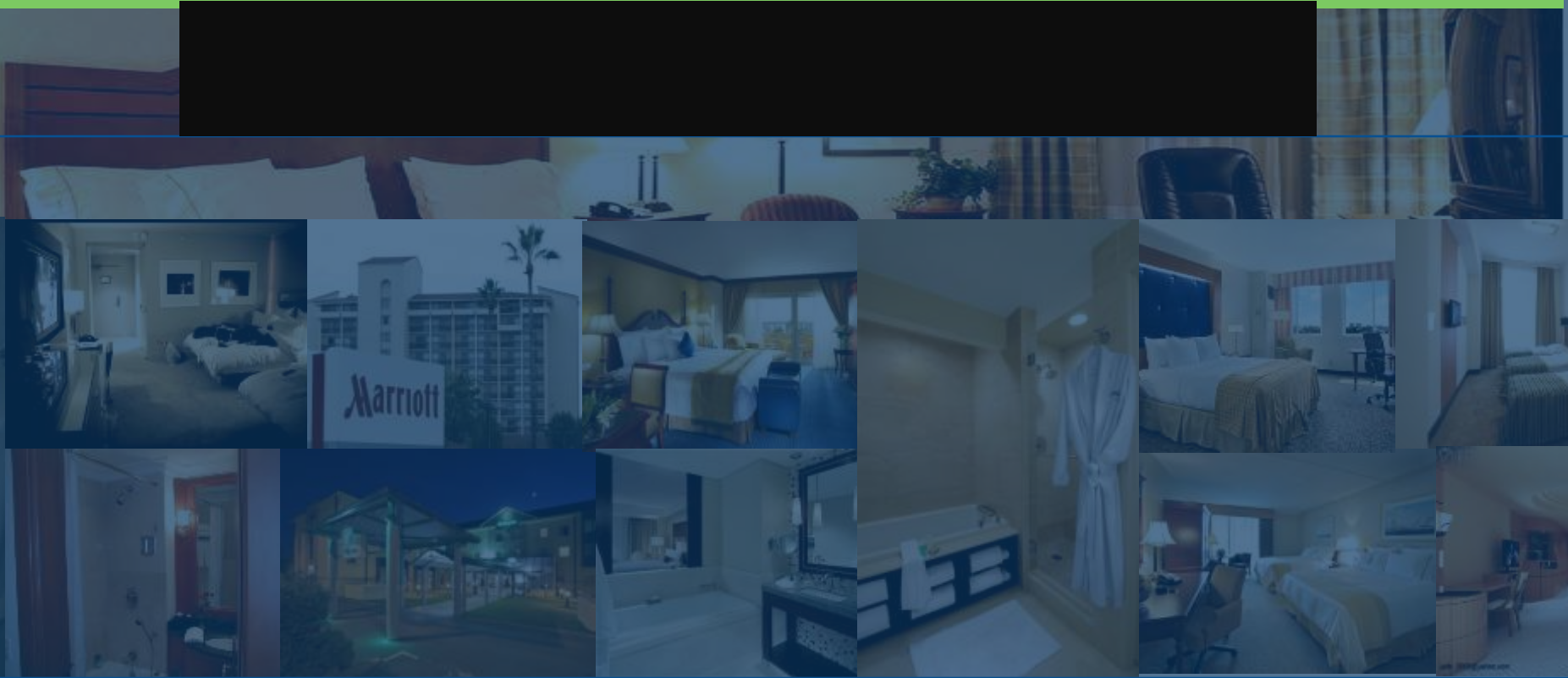


- Can totally switch out what card is charged when you get there

- Holding luggage at the front desk
  - Most/all hotels (Hilton, Marriott, etc.) will hold luggage for you come checkout & pre check-in, so don't worry that you'll have to lug it around the con/make a mad dash for your car
- Hotel parking
  - Valet parking vs. parking yourself
    - Valet is more expensive but don't have to worry about parking it yourself
      - But they may still yo' shiz
  - May or may not be cheaper in the area around the con if there are parking garages
    - May want to check beforehand
      - Granted, can be annoying if you park somewhat far from the con/event
- Shuttles to the airport
- Also, when in doubt, call the hotel you're planning to stay & ask away



# PSA Announcements/Pro Tips



- Con rate isn't *always* going to be the cheapest rate
  - Especially if you have other connections, etc.
- May want to bring your own hand soap since hotel soap is meh @ best & it runs out fast
  - Not to mention chance everyone in the room's going to be using it...*everyone in the room's going to be using it*  
\*shudder\*
    - But , hey, it's on you whether you want to do it or not
      - & coontract super AIDS @.@

- Kayak.com, trivago.com, etc. are sites great for looking up hotel deals when not using the con rates (they check the other booking sites)
- Having a humidifier is a good way to prevent con flu
- Some hotels, like Marriott have free mobile apps
  - Helps you keep track of your reservation/change/cancel it
- Some rude hotel staff member copping an attitude?
  - Don't get an attitude back, just kill 'em with kindness



- You can't take over the room b/c you want to 'make whoopee' with your lover/spouse/total stranger
  - **DON'T!**
    - Nobody likes to be kicked out the b/c someone feels the need to get laid **now X/**
    - Not to mention ppl. will have no problem interrupting your happy time on purpose to troll the f\*\*\* out of you
      - *Use protection*
      - *Nothing like con **AIDS** @.@*

- Be polite, patient, nice, & courteous
  - Gets you a lot farther than being an intolerable b\*\*\*h
    - Especially to non-con hotel guests & hotel staff, don't need any reasons for the hotel to consider kicking out the con
      - Go ask that Jewish Youth Group >.>
  - Calm, but firm
    - Don't start cussing ppl. out b/c your TV went out; keep a level head & calmly explain your problem to hotel staff & try to work something out, report the problem, etc.

- Bring your own towels/re-use towels from the first night
  - Obviously, yours not someone else's
- Cuts down on having to request so many towels
  - Great idea when you have more ppl. in your room than what you should
- Or if you don't trust hotel towels

- For the love of cheez-its, *please* let the ppl. on the elevator off first before you jump on
  - It makes it take longer for ppl. to get off
    - Common courtesy & common sense
- Ride the elevator up to go down (Friday & Sunday)
  - Namely w/ really crowded hotels/cons (Otakeon, some comicons, etc.)
- Expect elevators to be crowded (namely early morning, definitely Sunday)
- Don't be the d\*ck that throws an “elevator party”
  - You will break the elevator & potentially get stuck in it

- Try to pack up as much stuff Saturday night to avoid having to deal with the Sunday morning rush
  - Checkout is usually 11a/12p, hence the rush
  - The more floors the hotel has/the bigger (more populated) the con, the worse the rush
- May want to wake up super early Sunday to start packing things up & leave
  - Granted, you should have already done so the previous night



- Again, be careful not to get caught with extra ppl. in the room, they will either kick all of you out or kick out the extra ppl. that aren't listed on the hotel reservation
  - Depends on the hotel
    - Some, like AUSA (Marriott) & Katsucon (Gaylord), have been really cracking down
- Try to get everyone room keys or at least state if ppl. won't on the forum post/to your friends upfront
- Listen to the room matron (for the most part)
  - Just remember to keep the peace
- Hotel rewards
  - Can lead to you getting a free night, so definitely sign up
    - Basically, frequent flyer miles

- You don't need to stay at the con hotel
  - Usually cheaper to stay @ other hotels
  - However, you get what you pay for
    - Cheap, low star hotels = cheap, low star facilities
      - Sometimes you luck out but usually not
        - o Granted, I'm not saying you need to stay at the con hotel
    - More expensive but closer vs. Cheaper but further away

- If you don't want to be disturbed by the room service, use the 'do not disturb' sign or equivalent
  - Usually will also keep them from cleaning your room
  - Some hotels offer a sign specifically requesting only fresh towels & not room cleaning
- If you have the \$\$\$ & you don't feel like dealing with the drama, get your own room
  - Hey, if you got the money...
  - Can take up as much space as you want
  - Don't have to worry about crappy friends or strangers

- “Potty (non)humor”
  - Drop & flush (when doing no. 2)
    - You think this sounds funny, until you have to deal with a clogged toilet during a high traffic time for the bathroom
      - Not to mention it cuts down on the smell
        - Also, bring air freshener; perfume/cologne isn’t going to cut it
    - GD, if you clog the toilet, call the front desk & get it fixed ASAP
      - This is even worse if you have 10+ bodies in the room
      - Another reason not to have room parties
  - If you use the last bit of toilet paper, take the initiative & get some more
    - Call the front desk or go downstairs, you lazy b\*\*tard

- In general, if you wouldn't do that to your college roommate/@ home, don't do it in the hotel room
  - Throwing your clothes anywhere, falling asleep where you are regardless of your roommates, not putting trash in the trash can, farting in ppl.'s faces while they sleep, etc.
- Can usually request extra towels, pillows, sheets, etc.
  - Helps to do this if you have more than 4 staying in the room or keep you stocked up for the rest of the weekend



- When a hotel makes you “walk”
  - i.e., don’t have enough room to house you/they lost your reservation & they house you somewhere else
  - If you made the reservation via the hotel site:
    - They *have* to...
      - Room you @ their closest sister hotel free of charge
      - Pay for your transportation to the hotel
        - Assuming you booked through their site; otherwise, you’re liable to pay for all costs/they aren’t obligated to help you
    - If the hotel person you’re talking to is giving you issues (not covering everything for walking you), ask to speak to the manager
      - If you used a travel agent, you can also call them up to ask them to help you out with the issue
    - They may offer you a free night or whatever except for this, but you need housing for now not later

- You are NOT a special snowflake that gets to do what you want
  - You have to follow the rules like everyone else
  - Respect & treat others as you would have them do to you
    - Don't think you can treat hotel staff like crap & get away with it
  - You can & will be kicked out/banned from the hotel/con if you're being a big enough d\*uche
    - That has been done & it does happen, don't think it can't happen to you
      - BBYO @ the Gaylord
- Basically, the 'don't be a d\*uche' principal

- Listen, observe, & *learn* / “don’t seem like a tourist” policy
  - You don’t always have to ask a billion questions, just watch & imitate what you see
    - Do you seriously need to ask ‘why are ppl. riding the elevator up?’, just look, listen, & learn
      - I guarantee you there’s some smarta\$\$ waiting to school someone on this
        - & I have no problem being that smarta\$\$ ~.^
          - & others will join in
  - Why common sense is worth way more in life than book sense >.>

- Quality costs

- If you're used to Marriott, Hilton, Gaylord level hotels, than stick to that; don't try going to lower end hotels & expect the same exact quality

- Save for some bad/good experiences respectively, a luxury hotel generally is going to have more to offer than a lower end one

- If you live close by but don't feel like making a long commute, don't hesitate to get a hotel room (whether by yourself or using the con forums)

- Nothing beats being where the action is & not having to worry about any type of commute/gas/etc.

- What I do w/ Otakon, Katsucon, AUSA, & MAGfest

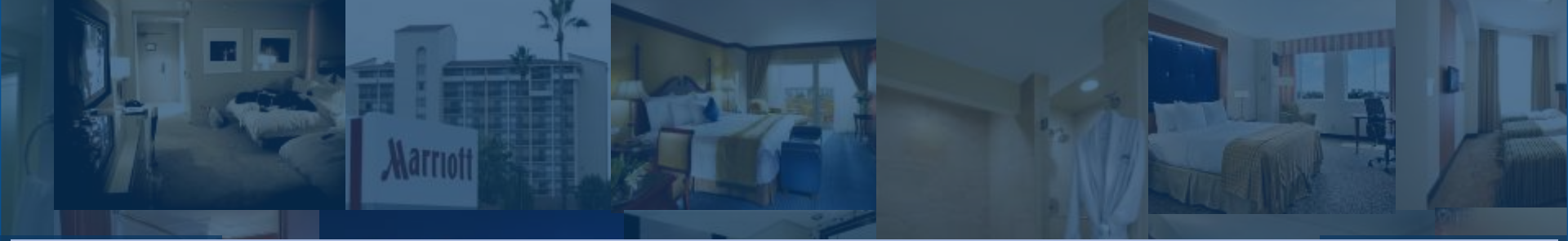
- Combining reservations

- When they're still rooms in the hotel, but not enough with the con rate

- For example: charge the con rate for 1/2 night(s), regular rate for the rest

- You may miss booking a hotel with the days you want, but it's never too late to fill a room
  - Like with Otakon, Katsucon, NY Comicon, etc.
- Personal experiences





# “Don’t Be a D\*\*\*” Advice

When looking for a room



- Follow these simple principles when looking for a room
  - If you know you're not going to be able to make the con/can't stay in the room, let the room host know ASAP
    - Loss of job, family emergency, etc.
  - If you can't pay upfront for your share of the room or can't pay right away or have some other \$\$\$ issue, let the room host know ASAP
    - You can only pay in cash but the room host wants it upfront via Paypal, etc.
  - If you have any issues coming up or presently happening that will affect your stay in the hotel/going to the con at all, let the room host know ASAP
    - You decide you want to room w/ a group of friends, etc.
      - In this case, check with your friends 1<sup>st</sup>; don't go to the forums & waste someone else's time

- Ppl. are far more likely to be sympathetic when things are handled in a timely matter
  - You let ppl. know things in advance, they have the time to be accommodating & understanding
    - Don't expect any sympathy/understanding from me when you waited 'til less than a week before the con to tell me you can't go X/
      - Of course, barring last minute emergencies
- If you didn't have a job/hardly any \$\$\$ a month prior, then you *ain't* goin'
  - It's called being fiscally responsible
    - Again, as the room host, if you know this ahead of time don't let them in your room

- It's common courtesy, common sense, & just plain being responsible
  - Especially don't wait to drop that bombshell on the room host at the last minute; i.e., the 4/20 you tell me you can't make the con on 4/25 ~.~
- It's all about communication!
  - It shouldn't be like pulling teeth when the room host needs to know certain pertinent info
    - Some things you should volunteer upfront (if you're planning on staying with someone else, you're not sure if you can commit, you can't pay via Paypal, you may not have enough \$\$\$ to afford the con, etc.)
- You're literally already making enemies before the con even starts if you pull this last minute crap
  - If this happens to you as a room host, take note & blacklist them



- If it's less than a week before the con, somebody better be dead for you to pull out of a room commitment
  - Regardless if you paid already or not
- For some cons (like this one), it's fairly difficult to fill rooms as it is
  - Don't add on to the problem



# Hosting vs. Searching

## Host

- Forums in place
  - Active forums
  - Lots of ppl. on the forums
- Lots of ppl. looking for rooms
  - More looking for room posts than filling a room
- Variety of options for hoteling
- Rooms fill up fast
- Don't have any friends going
- You have the \$\$\$ for it
  - Also, a card that can w/stand the room charge
- You're able to pay with a credit/debit card
  - Only way to guarantee the room reservation **or** pay upfront months in advance

## Search

- Either inactive/nonexistent forums
- If they have forums, hardly anyone is on them
- Limited options for hoteling/rooms take forever to fill (@ con rate)
- You do have a decent amount of friends attending
  - That you wouldn't mind rooming with
- You don't necessarily have the \$\$\$ to clear a hefty reservation charge
  - Esp. if you're collecting \$\$\$ @ the con
- Don't have any form of plastic
- Of course, bad previous experience(s) to convince you to do otherwise



Questions?



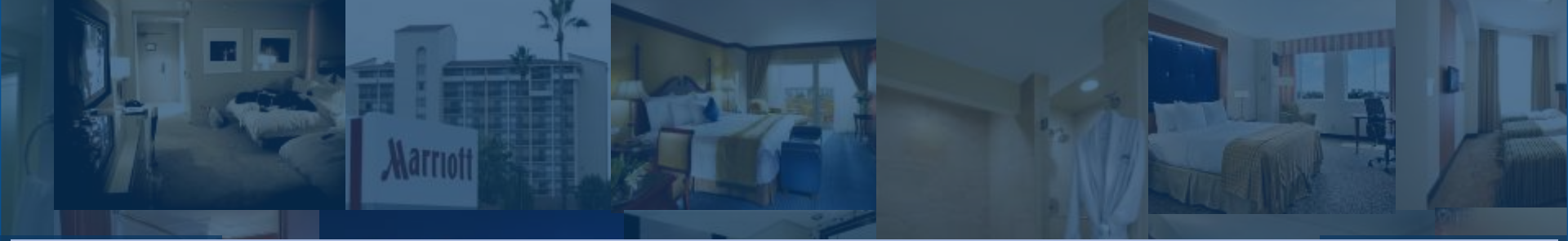
# Contact, Comments, Handouts, Etc.

- Help yourself to my business cards & handouts with appropriate links
  - Includes link to my blog, my e-mail address, & list of resources
- Feedback always appreciated! Suggestions, comments, critiques, whatever
  - E-mail form on my site, e-mail, feedback session for the con, feedback forum for the con, etc.
- Please e-mail me any vids &/or pics of this panel
  - Especially vids

# Other Panels

- ~~*How to Con: Staying in a Hotel*~~
  - ~~*Fri. (4/25/14) Live 2, 1-2p*~~
- Figures to the Max!
  - *Fri. (4/25/14) Live 1, 2-3p*
    - Just follow me to the next room >.>
- Sit Down, STFU, & Play This J-RPG (Deluxe Edition)
  - *Sat. (4/26/14) Live 5, 12-2p*
- The Sengoku Era, Basara, You, & Awesomeness
  - *Sat. (4/26/13) Live 5, 2:15-3:15p*
- Yaoi & Bara Tropes & Trends 3-Bigger, Longer, Harder MOTTO!! (18+)
  - *Sat. (4/26/13) Live 2, midnight-1:30a*





Thanks for Coming~!!

