

SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Welcome to Ropecon!

A warm welcome to Finland and to the largest non-commercial role-playing game convention in Europe!

First and most important rule: don't panic! Ropecon features a massive amount of program, and at first glance it can be difficult to take in everything it has to offer. In this guide you can find an outline of the program in English, as well as useful information for visitors. In addition to role-playing, there are countless workshops, lectures, panels, shows and other program during the convention weekend. You are sure to find someone to play with in Ropecon.

During its 25 years of history, Ropecon has established itself as the major event of the year for the Finnish role-playing scene. The association behind the convention, Ropecon ry, aims to develop and promote the role-playing game, card game, board game and miniature wargaming in Finland. Ropecon is organized entirely by volunteers: by the gamers, for the gamers.

Let's make this year's convention one to remember! This year's theme is *life and community*.

The International Meeting Point - Your first stop!

Lost and looking for direction? Puzzled by the local language?

The International Meeting Point offers a place where you can hang out and meet other internationals or get the latest tips on what to do and where to go during Ropecon. The meeting point staff will be happy to tell you about everything the event has to offer and how things work, or just have a nice chat, maybe even play a short game or two. It's also a great place to get to know other attendees.

Both internationals and locals are welcome!

Hall 3 of Messukeskus

Fri 4 pm - 9 pm

Sat 10 am - 8 pm

Sun 10 am - 4 pm

Guest of Honour

Alex Roberts

Alex Roberts is a Canadian game designer and writer. Roberts, who currently lives in Ottawa, designs both tabletop and live action roleplaying games. She is also known for *Backstory* podcast, where she interviews game designers and other notable members of the roleplaying community, and for her endless and genuine enthusiasm for roleplaying.

Alex Roberts has been a guest speaker at several North American conventions on topics such as queer design in games which deal with romance, sexuality and spirituality. *Star Crossed*, her two-player RPG of forbidden love, was recently Kickstarted with Bully Pulpit Games and reached 800% of its funding goal.

Roberts has also worked on games such as *Sig: The City Between*, *Dialect*, *Damn the Man Save the Music!*, *Threadbare* and *Misspent Youth: Sell Out With Me*. She is currently the Production Coordinator with Bully Pulpit Games, and works with gaming events on developing community safety and care.

Programme items featuring Alex Roberts:

Friday, 19:00, Room 103 – Interviewing Guests, Interviewing Players: A Podcaster's Guide to Roleplay

Saturday, 12:00, Room 103 – Women in Game Design

16:00, Room 103 – Un-Designing Star Crossed

Sunday, 12:00, Program Stage – Star Crossed Demo

Visitor Information

INFO 24h

Tel. +358 45 136 2946

Southern Entrance hall

Troubleshooters wearing blue "STAFF" vests will also be patrolling the convention area. You can reach out to them whenever you need help. If needed, you can contact the security via the Information Desk.

Accommodation

A 24h sleeping bag accommodation area is available for all attendees of Ropecon free of charge throughout the convention. With a weekend ticket you can enter and exit the accommodation area whenever you want between Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. A one-day ticket grants you one night at the sleeping bag accommodation area.

The accommodation area is located in Hall 2 of Messukeskus. The entrance to the accommodation area is located at the western end of Glass Gallery, next to the Southern Entrance. To access the area, walk past Large Item Storage, enter through the doors and down the stairs.

Upon arrival, a sleeping space will be appointed to from the hall by our staff. Since no sleeping equipment is provided by the convention, bringing along a mattress, a pillow and a warm blanket or a sleeping bag is recommended to make sleeping on a cool concrete floor more comfortable. Please remember that the accommodation area is only meant for sleeping, not for storage. You must clear out your sleeping space of all items when you leave the accommodation area. Mattresses and other sleeping equipment can be stored at the Large Item Storage, which is also located at the western end of the Glass Gallery.

The accommodation area will open on Friday at 9 pm, and everyone must vacate the area by 3 pm on Sunday the latest. Staff members will be present at all times

to provide assistance and supervise the accommodation area.

Personal hygiene

Showers and toilets in the accommodation area are open 24 hours a day throughout the convention. Make-up room is also located next to the accommodation area: please use it for all your extensive make-up and prop needs, e.g. for cosplay.

Childcare

There is a playroom for children and parents to relax, play and eat in located near the Southern Entrance. The playroom is open Fri 4 pm - 10 pm, Sat 10 am - 10 pm and Sun 10 am - 4 pm. The playroom has a microwave and a diaper changing station for visitor use. There is also a childcare room in Hall 3, next to Café 3. Diaper changing stations and potties are also available in the accessible toilets on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Conference Center, as well as in the toilets near the Northern Entrance.

Storage and lost & found

The cloakroom located at the Southern Entrance is open throughout the convention for storing clothing and small items. Mattresses, sleeping bags, luggage and other large items can be stored at Large Item Storage located near the western end of Glass Gallery. For any lost items, please visit the Information Desk during the convention or send your inquiry via email (loytotavarat@ropecon.fi) after the convention.

First Aid Station

The first aid station is located near the Northern Entrance of Messukeskus. The nearest pharmacy is Pasilan Apteekki (Ratapihantie 9), which is open only on weekdays. However, Yliopiston Apteekki (Mannerheimintie 96) is open 24h every day. Emergency number is 112. Please read

more about the safety and security information here.

Food and drink

Restaurants and cafes at Messukeskus offer relief for all kinds of hunger levels.

Restaurant	Fri	Sat	Sun
Balcony	18-03 (*)	18-03 (*)	-
Cafe 3 (hall 3)	17-23	13-23	11-15
Eat & Meet	15-18	12-21	12-16
Helsinki Cafe	15-21	9:30- 18	9:30- 17
Hesburger	15-24	09-02	09-18
Cafe Olohuone	15-21	15-21	11-16
Porridge breakfast at Olohuone		8-11	8-11
Sushirullen	15-21	12-21	-
Wok'n'Curry	15-22	8-22	8-18

Local businesses and restaurants also welcome Ropecon visitors. The closest shops are Lidl (Ratapihantie 3), and K-market Pasaati (Asemapäällikönkatu 3).

For more information on nearby restaurants, please see <https://2018.ropecon.fi/eng/for-visitors/eat-drink/>

Water stations

There are three water stations at the venue. First one is located in Hall 3 in the vicinity of Cafe 3, the second one is located in the Lower Gallery opposite restaurant Wok'n'Curry near door 3.1, and the third one in the Upper Gallery near the staircase and doors to Hall 5. Please note, that there are no drinking cups available at the water stations.

Accessibility

The entrances and passages at the venue are wheelchair accessible, and accessible parking is available near entrances free of charge. Accessible toilets can be found on the 1st and 2nd floors of the Conference

Center. Assistive listening devices are available at the information desk upon request for all meeting rooms in the Conference Centre. Naturally, assistants can enter the convention free of charge.

Emergency preparedness

- Identify the emergency exits in the area in advance.
- In case of an emergency, use the emergency exit closest to you to leave the area.
- Keep the roads clear so emergency services can access the area.
- Follow the instructions and orders of the safety officers.

Programme

For descriptions of programme items in English, please see

<https://2018.ropecon.fi/guide/#prog/tag:In+English>

For descriptions of programme items which do not require knowledge of Finnish, please see:

<https://2018.ropecon.fi/guide/#prog/tag:Language-free>

Games Desk and Board Game Library

Fri 3 p.m. – Sun 5 p.m.

The combined board game, card game, and miniature wargaming desk as well as the Experience Point are located in Hall 3 and will help with all your game-related questions. The desk is the common information source for different games and contests, as well as the signup spot for tournaments, and the location of the Board Game Library and miniature painting contest displays.

There is once more a plethora of board games to choose from at the board game library of Ropecon. You can borrow a game from the library for a collateral (e.g. driver's license or mobile phone) and find people to play with. If you have trouble choosing or need instructions on how to

play, our staff will be glad to help you. Taking games outside of Hall 3 is not allowed.

There are tables reserved around the desk for scheduled programming as well as for spontaneous gaming and playing board games from the library.

The Experience Point

Hall 3, Fri 15 – 22, Sat 10 – 22, Sun 10 – 17.
Ropecon's scenario contest entries are playable at the Experience Point, with new sessions starting every hour, on the hour. Welcome, alone or with friends!

Drop-in Miniature Painting

Hall 3, Fri 15 – 21, Sat 10 – 21, Sun 10 – 17

The Larp and RPG Desk

The Larp and RPG Desk resides in the entrance hall by the Southern Entrance. Role-playing games will be run through the convention and there are larps available from tight Black Box affairs to games that span the width and breadth of Messukeskus.

Ropecon's larps do not require special garb or props, and most of them are beginner-friendly.

For more information about games that are run in English as well as the sign-up protocol, please ask the staff at LARP and RPG Desk.

Talks and panels

Ropecon features a plethora of talks and panels about role-playing, game design and the roleplaying scene in various topics and perspectives. Lectures, panels and discussions are an excellent way to introduce yourself to the hobby, improve as a player, or gain general knowledge.

Workshops

At Ropecon's workshops you can get creative, explore the worlds of game design and character creation, or learn new useful skills. For some workshops

you need to sign up in advance at the information desk.

Other program

But wait, there's more! Ropecon's program also includes traditional spectacles such as the opening ceremony and the annual Ropecon Gala. There are also multiple exhibitions, program areas and activities that you can explore at your own pace. You can also enjoy music at Ropecon on the dance floor!

Props Exhibition

Fri 3 pm – Sun 5 pm, Hall 3

The Con Talks

Fri 6 pm – 8 pm, Program Stage

Gala

Sat 6 pm – 7 pm, Show Stage

The Ball

Sat 8pm - Sun 1 am, Show Stage

Discolarp

Sat 11 pm - Sun 2 am, Foam weapon area

Vendor Hall

The Vendor Hall is located in Hall 1 of Messukeskus. It offers an abundant selection of role-playing games, art, handcrafted items and other gaming related merchandise. Ropecon's traditional flea market can also be found within the Vendor Hall. Come and find great deals and handcrafted treasures that you won't find anywhere else!

Vendor Hall opening hours: Fri 3pm – 9pm, Sat 10am– 6pm & Sun 10am – 3pm

Flea Market

Visitors can bring along their old role-playing themed items or items that otherwise feel at home in Ropecon to be sold at the flea market. Our staff will take care of the sales and charge a small provision of the profits. Products from smaller Finnish role-playing game publishers are also available for purchase at the flea market. Since there is limited

space available, each seller can have max. 20 items for sale at any given time. For more information, reach out to the flea market staff.

Safety and Security

Code of Conduct

In order to guarantee a safe and successful convention for all visitors, Finnish laws and necessary safety regulations will be followed in Ropecon. Trained security stewards approved by the Finnish police will help maintain order and safety in the convention area. Instructions given by the security and the organizers of the event must be followed at all times.

The general code of conduct can be simplified

into three key points:

- 1. Follow the law, safety regulations and rules**
- 2. Use common sense**
- 3. Be considerate of others**

Because of the nature of the event, there are also some more specific rules that should be followed:

Props policy

Weapons are not allowed in the convention. If a gun replica is an essential part of your costume, it must remain attached to the costume at all times. Swinging around anything longer than your arm is not allowed in the event. Please note that all swords, knives and other similar costume weapons must not contain any sharp edges. Likewise, all airsoft weapons must have their magazines and gas chambers emptied, and all gun replicas must be clearly marked as such. Foam weapon fighting and other similar activities have their own dedicated areas and times within the program. Please refrain from

swinging around foam weapons elsewhere in the convention area.

How to mark gun replicas:

- The muzzle and the barrel of the gun must be covered with red tape for the length of at least 2 cm.
- The grip or the stock of the gun must also be clearly marked with red tape. The tape must be visible even when the gun is being held or stored as a part of the costume. If you have any questions or need further instructions on how to mark replicas, please contact the nearest security steward.

Alcohol & illegal substances

Both the possession and use of alcohol or illegal substances (e.g. drugs) is strictly prohibited within the convention area. It is also prohibited to enter the convention area drunk or under the influence of drugs. Our friendly security stewards will escort intoxicated visitors out of the convention area. Security has the right to search your bags and possessions if they have reasonable doubt that you are in possession of banned and/or illegal items or substances. They are also obligated by law to confiscate any banned substances or items.

The restaurant Balcony will be serving alcoholic beverages to customers who are 18 years and older, in accordance to their licenses and the Finnish law.

Please remember, however, that returning to the convention area intoxicated is not acceptable. Smoking, electronic cigarettes included, is permitted only in the dedicated smoking areas outside.

Costume etiquette

When choosing what to wear to the convention, it is advised to keep in mind that Ropecon is a family friendly event, so a certain amount of clothing is required. Feel free to dress up in a costume if you want. However, please note that some

programs may have age limits that require attendees to be able to show their faces in order to check their ID before entering.

Other rules

- Pets are unfortunately not allowed at the convention, with the exception of guide dogs and assistance dogs.
- Attaching advertisements, posters, signs, or your friends to the walls or other surfaces of the convention area with tape or by any other means is strictly prohibited.
- Commercial activity within the convention area is limited – please contact the organizers for further instructions.
- Help keep the convention area nice and clean by disposing of your trash where they belong: in the trash bin.

Anti-harassment policy

Security can be contacted through the Information Desk at all times.

Please remember that visitors of all ages, backgrounds and experience levels participate in Ropecon. We organizers want to provide everyone with a safe space and a pleasant experience at the event. Harassment and bullying are not welcome in Ropecon. Please treat everyone with respect throughout the convention weekend.

Examples of harassment include insults, name-calling, derogatory comments about one's gender or appearance, unsolicited or intrusive comments that are sexual in nature, stalking, aggressive or intimidating behavior, unwanted touching or other physical contact, and unwelcome sexual advances.

Anyone can experience harassment regardless of their gender, age or life experiences. Harassment can be both intentional and unintentional. Sometimes a joke or a comment you think is innocent or fun can make someone else

feel uncomfortable. It is important to respect other people and their feelings.

If someone feels that your behavior, actions or words are inappropriate or someone calls you out on it, stop immediately. Repeated inappropriate behavior or harassment will result in removal from the event and from the convention area.

If you are being harassed, try to tell the perpetrator to stop or ask someone to help you do so.

If you notice something that might be harassment or that someone else is being harassed, ask the people involved if everything is ok.

If needed, you can always reach out to our security, the information desk or directly to our harassment contact persons. **Our harassment contact persons are available 24/7 during the event** and can be contacted via phone: the phone numbers are also printed on the program leaflet. You can reach out to either one of our harassment persons as you wish.

We request that all cases of harassment are reported to our harassment contact persons, even if the situation is resolved without the help of our staff. By doing so you can talk about what happened with our harassment contact persons, and help us organizers take the necessary actions to ensure that Ropecon will become an even safer convention in the future.

- **Info +35845 136 2946**
- **Harassment contact person (Mari) +35844 781 5518**
- **Harassment contact person (Eino) +35844 781 5519**