

GR19 - FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT -

The 19th International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation (GR19) will take place at Mexico City on July 5 - 9, 2010. The location of GR19 will be at the Centro Banamex Convention and Exhibition Center (Centro Banamex) which is the most modern location of its type in Mexico. A professional congress organizer (Anfitriones Nacionales) will be in charge of the complete registration, accommodation, transportation, equipment, and logistics of the event.

The Local Organizing Committee is aware of security concerns and has taken several steps to address this issue. First, Centro Banamex is located in the Reforma corridor, a touristic and business area in Mexico City. Second, all the hotels proposed to the participants of GR19 are in close proximity to the venue. Finally, the conference will arrange special bus transportation between hotels and Centro Banamex which will be offered free of charge during the entire conference.

GR19 will include five days of conference talks, a public lecture to be presented by Prof. George Smoot, and an optional half-day excursion. The Scientific Organizing Committee, chaired by Prof. Don Marolf, is organizing a very exciting scientific program with a broad array of plenary speakers and parallel sessions. This information is available on the GR19 website at <http://www.gr19.com/>. Abstract submission for the parallel sessions will begin on December 1, 2009. To solidify an initial program, a small number of abstracts will be accepted in January, 2010. Other acceptances will occur after the admissions process has closed.

About Mexico

Mexico receives more than twenty million international visitors every year, in part due to its ancient culture, the warm and friendly atmosphere of the Mexican people, its renowned cuisine, and to its wonderful climate year round. Mexico City, the oldest metropolis in the Americas, is overlooked by the Popocatepetl and Iztaccíhuatl volcanoes and is noted for having gentle weather with an average annual temperature of 22 °C. Mexico City is an exciting place in which history, art, culture, tradition and modernity mix to form a constant effervescent ambience. There are neverending opportunities to experience and enjoy the region. There are innumerable tourist services, such as accommodation, fine dining, travel agencies, car rental services, tourist information booths, tourist transportation services and complementary services.

Visa information

Nationals of most countries do not require a visa to enter Mexico for visits of up to 90 days. For more information on visa requirements please visit: <http://www.inami.gob.mx/EN/index.php>. The conference will provide supporting documentation for visa applications upon request during registration online. In the unlikely event of a visa problem, the participants should feel free to contact us at:

Local Organizing Committee, Institute of Nuclear Sciences, UNAM

A.P. 70-543, 04510 Mexico D.F., MEXICO

Fax: +52 55 56224693

E-mail: gr19mexico@nucleares.unam.mx

Travel information

Mexico City can be reached by diverse means of transportation from all over the world. The city has a world-class international airport, four long-distance bus terminals, and a central railroad station. Visitors can fly to Mexico City from 104 airports around the world. Mexico City's International Airport (IATA: MEX) offers 650 flights a day and serves 6 national and 41 international airlines. There is also a new airport located in the city of Toluca (IATA: TLC) which is 50 minutes away from Mexico City.

Accommodation

Mexico City has more than 120 tourist-standard hotels with more than 47,000 rooms. Mexico Congress City (MCC) is an alliance headed by Centro Banamex, that involves the seven of the most important hotels in Mexico City in order to offer special benefits to the attendees of conferences at Centro Banamex. All the MCC hotels are within a 7 km radius of the Convention Center and from 15 to 30 minutes away (bus transportation during rush hour). Low-cost hotels will be offered to students at special rates. Additional information will be given soon on the GR19 website where you will be able to make your own reservations.

Conference fees

Early registration - Non-student (500 USD); ISGRG-Member (420 USD); Student (300 USD)

Late registration - Non-student (550 USD); ISGRG-Member (470 USD); Student (350 USD)

The conference fees include a welcome reception, admission to all plenary and parallel sessions, admission to the public lecture, all refreshment breaks, delegate pack and conference information, bus transportation between hotels and Centro Banamex, and participation on a half-day excursion in Mexico City.

Important dates

December 1, 2009 Online registration begins; Abstract submission begins

April 30, 2010 Deadline for abstract submission

May 15, 2010 Deadline for early registration

July 4, 2010 Arrival of participants and registration

July 5-9, 2010 Scientific and social program of GR19

We will be honored to welcome you, your families and friends, and the entire International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation as guests in this great country of ours.

Sincerely,

Hernando Quevedo

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee