

The Complete

Black Hat

USA 2025

Conference Guide

Aug 2 — 7, 2025

Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas

Black Hat USA 2025 is returning to Las Vegas, bringing together the brightest minds in cybersecurity. This guide is your inside track to making the most of the event, from must-attend sessions and networking tips, to local recommendations and hidden gems nearby.

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Black Hat USA 2025



When: Aug 2 — 7, 2025

Where: Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas

Find us at Booth **#5721**

Key Dates

- **Trainings:** Saturday, August 2 to Tuesday, August 5, 2025
- **Summit Day (CISO, AI, Financial Services, and more):** Tuesday, August 5
- **Briefings & Business Hall:** Wednesday, August 6 to Thursday, August 7

Registration & Badge Pick Up

Desk	Location	Hours (PDT)
Main Registration	Bayside Foyer, Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sat 8/2 - 7:30 16:00• Sun 8/3 - 8:30 16:00• Mon 8/4 - 7:30 17:00• Tue 8/5 - 07:00 20:00• Wed 8/6 - 07:30 18:00• Thu 8/7 - 08:00 16:00
Satellite Registration	Hotel lobby (across from Hazel Lounge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mon 8/4 - 13:00 17:00• Tue 8/5 - 07:00 22:00• Wed 8/6 - 07:30 13:00



Pro Tip: Lines are the shortest before 9:00 AM, so grab a coffee and head straight to Bayside.

Business Hall & Built-In Mixers

Day	Hall Hours	Highlight Events
Wednesday 8/6	10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Booth Crawl 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM• Welcome Reception 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Thursday 8/7	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hall closes just before the Locknote at 4:20 PM





Getting Around

- **Free Mandalay Bay—Luxor—Excalibur Tram** runs every few minutes and is fully air conditioned. No tickets or reservations are required.
- **Indoor Walkway** links the hotel lobby to the Convention Center—five minutes, zero desert heat.
- **Rideshare Pick Up & Drop Off** is signed “Uber | Lyft” at the Porte Cochère and South Beach garage level. Find it under “Uber” on the map [here](#).
- **Harry Reid International Airport** is a 10 minute ride; rideshare beats taxi lines during the evening rush.



Weather Snapshot (Early August)

Average High	Average Low
	
102°F / 39°C	79°F / 26°C



Pack breathable layers for the outdoor heat and consider a light jacket for air-conditioned meeting rooms.

Mandalay Bay Convention Center Overview

Layout at a Glance

Three primary levels in the South Convention Center.

- **Level 1 — Bayside Exhibit Halls & Food Court** (Main Registration here). The Shark Reef Aquarium is just outside, and don't miss it!
- **Level 2 — Shoreline Exhibit Hall, Oceanside Ballroom & Keynote Hall** (core briefings).
- **Level 3 — South Seas complex** (smaller breakouts and quiet corners).

Navigation Tips

- 1. Hotel to Hall Route:** From the front desk, stay left and follow the cobblestone path; you'll reach Bayside in under five minutes without stepping outside.
- 2. Need to Move Fast?** The complimentary tram beside the casino's south exit shuttles you to Luxor and Excalibur in minutes, handy for off site meetings.
- 3. Meeting Spots:** The Shoreline Prefunction (outside Oceanside Ballroom) has the strongest cell signal and plenty of seating for quick huddles.

Amenities Worth Knowing

- A dedicated rideshare lounge one level below the Bayside Exhibit Halls can save valuable time.
- Charging lounges, a full service business center, and a mothers' room on Level 1.
- Prayer room and quiet pods located near the Shoreline entrance on Level 2.

Insider Tip: Sessions in the Oceanside Ballroom empty directly into Shoreline Prefunction. Schedule meet-ups there to catch colleagues as they exit.

These essentials lock down your logistics so you can focus on cutting edge research, productive networking, and making the most of your time in Las Vegas.

Find us at Booth #5721

Food Near Mandalay Bay

Coffee Break

- 📍 **Hazel Coffee & Cocktails:** Lobby bar pouring award-winning java by sunrise and craft cocktails till 2 AM.
- 📍 **PRESS Lounge:** Tucked inside the adjoining Four Seasons; a calm café by day, chic cocktail spot by night.
- 📍 **Starbucks:** Multiple kiosks throughout the resort for a familiar caffeine fix between sessions.

Lunch Favorites

- 📍 **Border Grill:** Modern Mexican overlooking Mandalay Beach; legendary margaritas and Baja staples.
- 📍 **Wahlburgers:** Celebrity chef burgers, loaded tots, and plenty of TVs in Mandalay Place.
- 📍 **Citizens Kitchen & Bar:** All-day American comfort food; ideal for quick networking lunches.

Dinner & Drinks

- 📍 **Skyfall Lounge:** 64 floors up at Delano; sip craft cocktails while the Strip lights up at dusk.
- 📍 **Kumi:** Chef **Akira Back's** upscale Japanese-Korean mash-up, famed for sushi rolls and Wagyu.
- 📍 **Lupo by Wolfgang Puck:** Elegant Italian classics with tableside service (re-opening after 2024 remodel).
- 📍 **Foundation Room:** Rooftop lounge & nightclub with sweeping views and nightly DJs.
- 📍 **BLACKOUT — Dining in the Dark:** A sensory, pitch-black seven-course dinner just off the Strip; book ahead.

Relaxed Social Spots

- 📍 **Rí Rá Irish Pub:** Dublin-built pub with live music Friday—Sunday and a perfect Guinness pour.
- 📍 **Beerhaus:** Casual open-air beer garden at The Park; craft drafts, bar games, and patio seating.
- 📍 **eyecandy Sound Lounge & Bar:** Center-casino lounge with interactive tabletops and live DJ sets—easy meet-up spot after sessions.

THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN

August 5th - 7th Mandalay Bay / Las Vegas

BOOTH 5721

black hat
USA 2025

TLDR: Tips for Making the Most of Black Hat 2025

01 Beat the Heat, Own the Day:

Vegas averages 100°F+ in August; use the indoor walkway and tram, carry a refillable bottle, and schedule outside meetings for early mornings or after sunset.

02 Plan A & Plan B Sessions:

Popular briefings lock out fast. In the Black Hat mobile app, star those you must attend and mark a backup talk in the same slot in case the room fills.

03 Work the Business Hall Strategically:

Block out two focused hours when it opens at 10 AM on Wednesday; vendors are fresh, swag piles are full, and you'll beat the afternoon rush.

04 Network on Purpose:

Post key takeaways on X/LinkedIn, tag speakers, and send quick "great to meet you" DMs before leaving the expo floor while faces remain fresh.

05 Land the Follow Up:

Set 15 minutes on your flight home to sort business cards into "act this week" and "nurture" piles; fire off calendar invites or LinkedIn voice notes within 48 hours.

Master these essentials and you'll leave Black Hat with a full notebook, a lighter badge lanyard, and a network that pays dividends long after the Locknote ends.

Want the insider's scoop? Read on for the full details of our best tips.

01 Tip #1: Prepare for Vegas Heat

- Early August highs hover around 104°F / 40°C with single digit humidity. Hydrate constantly and stash a mini sunscreen in your badge pouch.
- Stick to Mandalay Bay's indoor walkway or the free tram for anything south of the casino; you can cross three resorts without touching the sidewalk.

02 Tip #2: Develop a Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C

Popular sessions cap out fast. Star your musts in the [BlackHat mobile app](#), then mark two backups in the same slot so you're never left roaming the hallway. The same tactic saved us at RSAC and works here, too.

03 Tip #3: Work the Business Hall With Intent

- Block a **10:00 AM — noon** slot on Wednesday: vendors are fresh, swag piles are full, and you'll beat the post-lunch rush.
- **SandboxAQ — Booth #5721**: swing by for the Saloon Showdown trivia game, limited-edition cyber western swag, and a 10-minute demo on quantum-ready crypto and AI-powered threat intel.

04 Tip #4: Engage Actively

- Demo Arsenal tools hands-on, then tweet key takeaways with **#BlackHatUSA** while the speaker is still on stage. Tagging presenters could raise the visibility of your post.
- Keep a running GoogleDoc of sessions and contacts; use your flight home to bullet out next steps, then share the doc company-wide by Monday.

05 Tip #5: Land the Follow-Up

Send LinkedIn voice notes or calendar invites **within 48 hours**; your name stays top-of-mind long after the Locknote ends.

A person wearing a cowboy hat and a blue jacket is shown from the chest up. Overlaid on the image is a 'WANTED' poster. The word 'WANTED' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, 'DATA LEAK' is written in red, and 'THREAT LEVEL: HIGH' is written in yellow. The background is a reddish-orange gradient with some digital-style patterns.

WANTED
DATA LEAK
THREAT LEVEL: HIGH

Must-Attend Sessions

Featured Main-Stage Sessions



Wed • Aug 6 • 12:50 PM

Proof, Not Promises — Redefining Cybersecurity for the DIB

Snehal Antani (Horizon3.ai) & Bailey Bickley (NSA) break down continuous pentesting tactics reshaping defense-industry security.



Snehal Antani

CEO & Co-Founder,
Horizon3.ai



Bailey Bickley

Chief of DIB Defense, NSA
Cybersecurity Collaboration Center



Thu • Aug 7 • 12:15 PM

Unmasking Cyber Villains — How Microsoft Stays Ahead

Aarti Borkar, Andrew Rapp, Simeon Kakpovi, and Sherrod DeGrippe reveal Microsoft's latest threat-hunting playbook at hyperscale.



Aarti Borkar

Corporate Vice President,
Security Customer Success,
Microsoft



Andrew Rapp

Senior Director of Security
Research, Microsoft



Simeon Kakpovi

CEO & Co-Founder,
Horizon3.ai



Sherrod DeGrippe

Director of Threat Intelligence
Strategy, Microsoft



Thu • Aug 7 • 4:20 PM

Locknote Panel — Black Hat Review Board

A rapid-fire wrap-up: the week's most game-changing research distilled into actionable takeaways and forward-looking trends.

Recommended Briefing Tracks

- **AI & Machine Learning**: The latest offensive techniques and defensive counter-measures.
- **Cryptography Track**: Quantum-safe encryption updates that dovetail with SandboxAQ's mission.
- **Cloud & IoT Security**: Real-world exploit scenarios across cloud workloads and embedded devices.

Networking & Social Events

Official Receptions (Everyone Welcome)

- **Welcome Reception — Tuesday, August 5 | Evening**
Black Hat's opening mixer starts at the Business Hall and continues into the House of Blues and the Foundation Room rooftop. A perfect ice-breaker before Briefings begin.
- **Booth Crawl & Business-Hall Reception — Wednesday, August 6 | 4:00 PM — 6:00 PM**
Two hours of free drinks, swag hunting, and hallway catch-ups while exhibitors roll out their best demos. Remember to hit SandboxAQ's booth early at #5721 for the cyber-western trivia showdown.

Executive & Specialty Meet-Ups

- **CISO Summit — Tuesday, August 5 | 8:00 AM**
Don't miss the invite-only CISO Summit at the Four Seasons on Tuesday, August 5. Our team will be on stage delivering a panel discussion on our recent Market Report. To request an invite, email events@sandboxaq.com.
- **CISO Breakfast — Thursday, August 7 | 7:00 AM**
Invite-only roundtable at Rí Rá Irish Pub. If "CISO" is on your badge, request a spot when the RSVP link drops — seats disappear fast.
- **Summit-Day Mixers — Tuesday, August 5 | Late Afternoon**
Each Summit (CISO, AI, Financial Services, Innovators & Investors) ends with its own short networking reception outside the session rooms. Plan to linger; many speaker-side convos happen here.

After Hours Vendor Parties

- Wednesday and Thursday nights are packed with RSVP-required events — the AfterFuse party at the House of Blues, the CarahSoft Public Sector Reception at the Ice Bar, and Vanta's rooftop happy hour, among others. Pass them your info early to lock in spots before they fill.

Iconic Attractions



Cirque du Soleil — “Michael Jackson ONE”
at Mandalay Bay



Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Sign
— 10 minute walk south



Shark Reef Aquarium inside Mandalay Bay



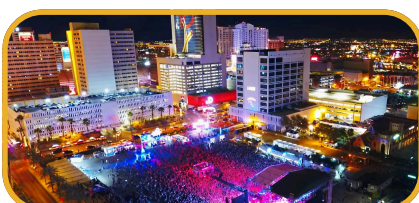
Luxor Attractions — Titanic & Bodies exhibitions
next door



Bellagio Fountains — free shows every
15—30 min



High Roller Observation Wheel at LINQ Promenade



Fremont Street Experience
— LED canopy & zipline downtown