

NHShorty and BuffaloBill's April 21 – 25, 2013 Trip Report

Day 3, April 23nd

Today we answer once and for all, at least for ourselves, which is the best way to go between EPCOT and HS without using a wheeled vehicle. But first...

Like yesterday, I picked up some pastries at the Roaring Fork inside WL and we enjoyed our tea and pastries on the little porch of our studio villa. Here's a picture of another Giant Furry Gecko. I am telling you these things are everywhere. There must not be any dogs in WDW.



Again, there will be more pictures of the view from here in the day four's report when we stage a "Hard Day's Night" style breakout from the WL villas. Remember the scene where the Fab Four escape from the TV studio and run amuck.

Anyway, after our tasty al fresco breakfast, we jumped in to the White Streak and headed off to see the golf ball.



As you can see, at noonish the Flower and Garden Festival was in full swing and there were tons of people trying to pose with the topiaries near the entrance. Rather than wait for them all to leave, I just took a picture of strangers.

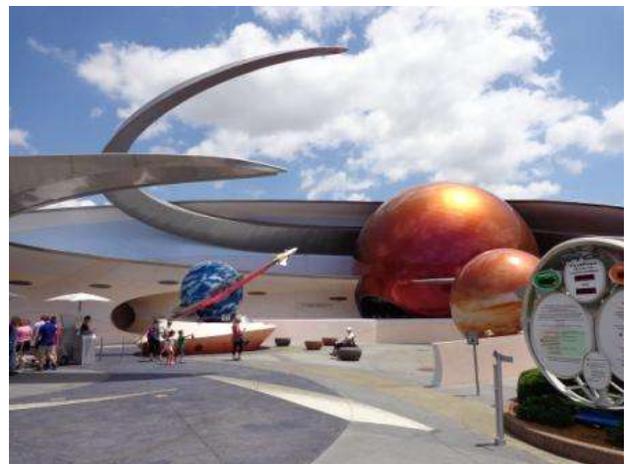
Our first stop, as it often is, was Space Ship Earth.



On the way to ride Mission Space and to get fast passes for Test Track, we encountered the F&G edition of the Jaminators. It may be a coincidence, but we saw these guys three times during this trip.



Test Track's wait time was significant, so we grabbed Fast Passes and jumped on to Mission Space Orange.



Once again we ran into the meteor storm over the Mars Base, had to negotiate the canyon, and landed long. The air-sick bags were left unused.

After Mission Space we headed over to the Odyssey Building to exchange NHShorty's cardboard annual pass for a plastic one. We were also briefed on the new wrist band annual passes and offered complementary water and lemonade.



The bottomline is that the plastic annual passes will be replaced by wrist bands. There are four colors available initially. You will be able to personalize them with a sharpie and they are waterproof. There's an ID number molded into the inside of the band as well.

There were some Disney technical types on hand to answer the questions about being tracked and stuff like that. While NHShorty was getting her plastic pass I engaged one of these techies about what else is going on. She pretty much stuck to the corporate script. I mentioned WDWFGU and I saw a flash of recognition. She knew about us, and admitted that they do monitor our interweb transmissions along with the other unofficial Disney sites.

All in all, we were in the Odyssey Building about 20 minutes and with the exchange completed, we wandered onto the left side of the World Showcase promenade. We just strolled along at a leisurely pace and spent some time in China.



A lot of the gift kiosks were selling F&G stuff. Here NHShorty was taste testing a large gray Mickey-shaped cookie.



I quickly realized that wasn't a cookie and we'd better get some food into NHShorty quickly. We decided to go to Via Napoli and try to get in without an ADR. On the way we checked out the German train garden. Here's a shot of the town square that is all decked out with F&G banners.



We also checked up on the scandalous PDA going on in the gazebo. They are still making out, but wait to see what we found out about these two on Day 5!



To get to Via Napoli, we had to navigate around the world famous Ziti Sisters.



After a 5 minute wait, we were shown to our table. I really like the chandelier in the lobby and we both liked the pizza.



After our lunch, we continued our stroll looking at the F&G exhibits. This one caught my eye because I had ripped it off from an HGTV show last year and used it in my yard. Of course, the picture on the left is from the F&G and the other is from my yard.



We kept on strolling and taking the same pictures we all take until we got to the International Gateway.

And now for something totally different; the answer to the musical question: Which is faster, walking between EPCOT and Hollywood Studios or taking the boat.

To answer this question three pieces of information are required:

1. How long does it take the boat to go from the International Gateway to Hollywood Studios
2. How far is it from the International Gateway to Hollywood Studios
3. What is the average walking speed of an adult human

INFORMATION #1: According to CM's that operate the boat, the trip from EPCOT to Hollywood Studios, including the three stops along the way and the time required to discharge and board passengers at each stop, averages 30 minutes. This fact has been verified by the following photographic evidence. Please note that NHShorty and I took the boat from EPCOT to the Boardwalk to verify that the boat was typical of the vessels normally used and had not been modified to improve its speed or handling characteristics. Therefore, the arrival picture, figure 2, was not taken aboard the boat.



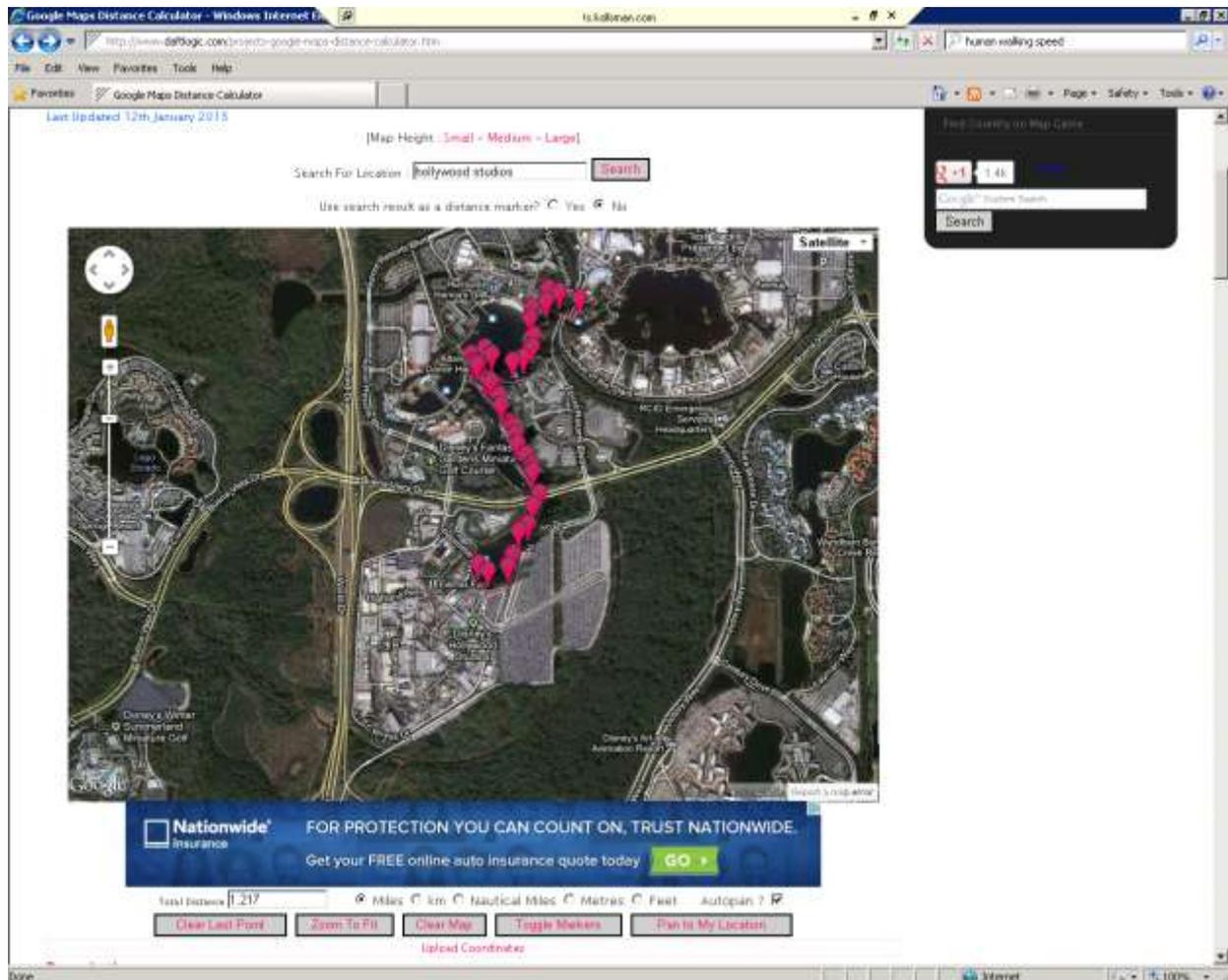
Figure 1: Boat leaving International Gateway photo taken Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 3:37:32 PM



Figure 2: Same boat shown in Figure 1, arriving at Hollywood Studios, taken Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 4:06:34 PM

The total transit time from EPCOT to Hollywood Studios was **29 minutes, 2 seconds**. There was a trailing breeze.

INFORMATION #2: The walking distance from the center of the boat dock at the International Gateway in EPCOT to the center of the entry plaza of Hollywood Studios is approximately 1.217 miles (or 1.9585716 kilometers). This approximate value was determined using the web site www.draftlogic.com which uses Google Maps and a series of user (aka BuffaloBill) placed points. The more points the more accurate the distance. I used about 60 points and the draftlogic software totaled the distances between each of the points. Below is the screen capture.



INFORMATION #3: According to Wikipedia “walking speeds can vary greatly depending on factors such as height, weight, age, terrain, surface, load, culture, effort, and fitness, the average human walking speed is about 5.0 kilometres per hour (km/h), or about 3.1 miles per hour (mph). Specific studies have found pedestrian walking speeds ranging from 4.51 kilometres per hour (2.80 mph) to 4.75 kilometres per hour (2.95 mph) for older individuals and from 5.32 kilometres per hour (3.31 mph) to 5.43 kilometres per hour (3.37 mph) for younger individuals; a brisk walking speed can be around 6.5 kilometres per hour (4.0 mph)”. Apparently your mileage may vary.

Therefore, using an average walking speed of 3.1 MPH (5.0 KPH), walking is faster by approximately 6 minutes!

Here’s the supporting explanation and math:

To determine the time to walk:

1.217 Miles divided by 3.1 MPH = 0.392580645161 Hours

0.392580645161Hours times 60 minutes = 23.55483870967741 minutes

So why, you ask, if walking is the faster method, was the picture in figure 2 taken from the walkway and not at the Hollywood Studios boat dock showing the arrival of the boat? In other words, why weren't NHShorty and Buffalobill waiting at the boat dock when the boat arrived? Here are the top ten reasons:

10. We are not as young as we used to be
9. We are not "average"
8. The CM's driving the boat cheated when we weren't looking
7. We stopped in a gift shop on the Boardwalk and the boat didn't
6. We looked in the windows of Big River Grill and the boat didn't
5. Big Furry Gecko blocked the pathway
4. Random perturbations in the Earth's magnetic field
3. Google Maps is whacked and can't be trusted
2. Stupid parents from rental car counter were chasing Sophia
1. It was hot out and we were on vacation, so what

Now that this question had been definitively answered, we move on to our adventures at Hollywood Studios.

I was seriously gassed and sweaty from our trek from EPCOT, so once we got through the security check and the turnstiles, we walked up Hollywood Boulevard, hung a left towards the dinosaur ice cream stand and dropped into the Tune-In Lounge.



Our new best friend, Enzo, knew just what we needed to cut the dust of the trail. Sam Adams and Yuengling.



With our thirsts quenched we headed for Star Tours, followed by a tour around the Streets of America area and One Man's Dream.



We continued our stroll back to the Sorcerer's Hat and ran into Florida's hardest working band of landscapers.



After getting my cow bell fix for the day, we trundled down Sunset Boulevard to the Rock and Roller Coaster. NHShorty held down the fort while I took advantage of a nearly empty single rider line.



We finished off our quick trip (4:15 - 7:30) to Hollywood Studios with some shopping and headed back to EPCOT by boat.



Back at EPCOT, we hit the walk up Fish and Chips stand in the UK for some Fish and Chips. Next to the Rose and Crown pub was this little temporary counter service place called the Cottage.



We moved down the promenade to the area in front of Canada and settled in for Illuminations and the end of our day. Once again, we fell back into our villa exhausted.

Whew.