

A FAN'S SHORT GUIDE TO WASHINGTON



How to
Get around in D.C.

**A FAN'S SHORT GUIDE TO WASHINGTON;
or, the Deep Space Boys At Large in a Great Capital!**

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I thought you people who are visiting Washington for the Dis-Con might like a little advice on how best to get around in this city. Hope this pamphlet will be enough to answer most of your questions, or at least leave only those the natives themselves can't answer.

Best & all,
Dick Eney

Dick Eney

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SPECIAL NUMBERS:

American Automobile Ass'n:
Information ME 8-4000
Road Service ST 3-8600

Poison Control Center:
DU 7-4220
(better yet, don't drink
Studebaker's concoctions)

Medical Bureau:
RE 7-6100

Ambulance Service:
HO 2-3322

The Con hotel -- the Statler -- is between K and L Streets on 16th Street, North West. Accept no substitutes!!!

I. HOW TO GET HERE FROM 'MOST ANYWHERE

Those of you who come by train will almost certainly arrive at Union Station. From Union Station the D-2 and D-4 buses go right past the hotel.

The transcontinental bus terminals are at 12th Street and New York Avenue; Trailways on one corner, Greyhound on the other. From either of these you can catch the S-2 bus to the hotel.

If you're flying, you might try to come in at Washington National Airport. Dulles and Friendship Airports are served by airport buses, which stop only two blocks from the hotel, at 15th and L Streets; but it's a long ride. Washington National Airport is served by the A&W Bus Lines, which run right past the Terminal Building and take you to 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue; from there go down a block to 11th Street and catch the S-2 bus of the D.C. Transit System to the hotel. Unless you're really anxious to be saving, you'll take less time catching one of the Airport limousines, which will stop right at the hotel.

For those of you who drive, your smartest move is to stop outside the city limits, get a map at a gas station, and plan your exact approach ahead of time. If you can get on either K street or 16th Street you've got it knocked; if you get lost, the hints in the section on "Finding Yourself" should help. There's a garage in the hotel, with entrances on the K and L Street sides. There is also a limited amount of on-street parking (10¢-an-hour meters) near the hotel. I think your best bet will be to park in or near the hotel to unload, then move the car to one of the free Fringe Parking lots for the weekend. Of these, the easiest to find is Carter Barron Fringe lot; straight out 16th Street to about Kennedy Street in the Third Alphabet (I'll explain that in the section on "Finding Yourself"), on your left. Take the S-2 bus back to the hotel. The lot is policed, and has telephones.

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II. FINDING YOURSELF

Washington has an excellent coordinate-grid system of streets, far superior to most large cities. (Remind me to have it installed universally if I ever get elected dictator.) Running North and South are numbered streets, arranged in numerical order from the center of the city -- which is defined as the Capitol Building. Running East and West are lettered streets, arranged in alphabetical order from the same center point...we happen to be near the only exception to this: there is no J Street. The system is divided into four quadrants; the con hotel, and all the addresses I'm giving, will be in the North-West quadrant.

If you get mixed up in side streets or avenues, you can almost always relocate yourself by getting back on the coordinate grid. Street numbers mount as you go away from the Capitol in every direction, and match the preceding street. That is, as you cross 16th Street going away from the Capitol you'll be in the 1600 block; as you cross K Street going away from the Capitol, you'll be in the 1000 block...K being the tenth letter when J is left out, y'see.

In our North-West quadrant we have several successive alphabets; the letter one, then a "second alphabet" of two-syllable names in alphabetical order, then a "third alphabet" of three-syllable names in the area of the Fringe Parking Lot I mentioned. (There's even a "fourth alphabet" -- flower names -- but you won't be getting that far out unless you know the city too well to need this guide.)

If things were that easy, we'd have it made, but drivers must look out for traffic circles (whose offshoots are not too plainly posted) and the system of diagonal avenues, which have their own individual numbering systems. To deal with these -- if you can't avoid them altogether -- get a map; the ones the gas companies give away free (Shell's is best) are as good as any of these tourist-trapping 35-50¢ items.

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III. GETTING AROUND

Bus service in DC is adequate for all the downtown area; there's a route map in the front of the Classified section of the phone book. (This doesn't show all streets, but if you keep the grid system in mind you can figure out locations well enough.) Probably the most useful routes, to us, are #D-2, D-4, and S-2, mentioned earlier; #40, which passes two blocks south of the hotel and runs thru the business district to Capitol Hill; and #50, which passes the White House, goes thru the Federal Triangle, past the Smithsonian Complex, and thus to the Capitol. All DC Transit lines cover the same routes inbound & outbound, so you can always catch the same bus back. Fares are 25¢, or 4 tokens for 85¢.

DC taxi service currently runs on an area basis -- 50¢ is the present single fare for a trip that doesn't cross a zone line; 35¢ each the group fare. Rates go up, not on the basis of distance travelled, but the number of area lines crossed.* (The railroad and bus terminals are in the same zone as the hotel, by the way.)

Daring souls who want to drive their own cars in DC are

cautioned that the rush hours are about 7:30 to 9AM and 4:30 to 6PM. Connoisseurs tell me that they aren't as bad as New York's, but they're plenty bad enough, friends.

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IV. THE SCENE

The Statler-Hilton itself is a good downtown location with all appropriate internal conveniences. Several restaurants, a coffee shop, and a bar, plus drugstores, variety shops, and a beauty parlor, are available on the premises. Also featured are some less frequently found conveniences like airline ticket offices, sight-seeing bus desks, and agreeable managements.

All the restaurants on the premises pass Moffatt's Test for Goodness, with high scores (except Trader Vic's, which was not examined). The bar passes Rotzler's Test for Smoothness of Daiquiri. White tie and tails are not required, but dress as if you were going out for dinner, hm?

Our bloc of rooms will be assigned as much as possible on contiguous floors. All program activities will be on the Second Floor.

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V. THE CITY IN GENERAL

Washington weather is usually pretty rough; the British Embassy here was for years listed as a Tropical Duty station. Most of the buildings have air conditioning, though, which helps a lot; the hotel, of course, is 100% air conditioned. There are plenty of parks scattered around where you can get some breeze almost any time of day. For a weather forecast, call 936-1212.

Eastern Daylight Saving Time will be in effect in the city and all suburbs at convention time. For time check, call 8442525.

I'll deal with sightseeing further on. Some other items you may want to know:

There is no night life worth mentioning. Washington is a country village expanded to about 500,000 souls; most of the inhabitants work 8AM-5PM and keep hours accordingly. Among the less timeclock-fettered set Public Opinion -- id est, the bluenose pressure groups and other public enemies -- are so influential that even Congressmen daren't go in for High Living. There are night clubs in the area advertising floor shows; none are worth your time or money. Specialists can find folk music at The Shadows (1201 - 34th St. NW) in Georgetown; for That Other Stuff,

on the plaza side -- where all the cars are -- to visit. Best survey is provided by the guided tour; one starts every 15 minutes and takes 45 minutes. 25¢, and it's the only way short of a letter from your Congressmen that you can get into the House & Senate chambers. Congress is unlikely to be working when we're in town. (Disclaimer.) Across the plaza from the Capitol on the left is the Supreme Court building -- white with a pillared colonnade -- which has little inside to observe unless the court is in session. (It probably won't be.) On the right -- grey building with green dome -- is the Library of Congress, one of the four or five best libraries in the world; there's a free half-hour tour, every hour on the hour until 4PM.

3) Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Go down to 14th Street and catch the #50 Bureau of Engraving and Printing bus. Have a free 40-minute tour, Monday thru Friday 12:30-2 PM. Watch them make money lots easier than you 'n I can. No smoking in the building, and of course you don't take cameras or straggle from the tour unless you want to see T-Men In Action.

4) The Smithsonian Complex. Take the #50 bus and get off at the first stop after you turn onto 7th Street. On your left is a white domed building, the National Gallery of Art; on the right, a light grey domed building with windows, the Natural History Building. The Gallery offers free tours at 11 and 3; they have an electronic recording "Lec-Tour" installation, too, which you can follow (with a rented receiver - 25¢) at other times. None of the other museum buildings has a tour service.

Behind these two buildings is a wide lawn, "The Mall"; straight behind the Natural History Building, across the Mall, is the Arts & Industries Building. From there, as you go toward the Washington Monument you'll pass: a display of ballistic missiles; the Air & Space Building (which looks like a Quonset hut with delusions of grandeur); then the (original) Smithsonian building; then the Freer Art Gallery, which has a fine collection of oriental art. If you get this far, might as well go on down to 14th Street and take the #50 bus back to the hotel area.

The last three buildings are fairly small -- you can get thru the Freer in under two hours, and the others in, roughly, one. The first three, however, are each full-afternoon jobs merely to look-thru. A warning: don't set your teeth and determine to See It All. You can't do it; just trying will half kill you, and entirely kill your enjoyment.

Not connected with the Smithsonian, but nearby, is the Armed Forces Medical Museum -- just to the left of the Arts & Industries Bldg, on the side toward the Capitol. Note well; if you have a jumpy stomach, or kids in tow, give this a miss. I kid you not.

5) The Monuments. If you've seen these, you've seen them; their interiors are of trifling interest -- unless it's a particu-

larly clear day, when the view from the top of the Washington Monument is fine. If you're game for a three-mile walk, you can take the #50 bus to the Washington monument; then continue along 14th Street to the Jefferson Memorial; then turn right along the river to the Lincoln Memorial.

6) Near the Hotel. Two blocks uphill on 16th Street -- to your right as you go out the main entrance -- is the National Geographic Society building, with a small but worthwhile set of displays and some superbly printed maps for sale. A few doors down, (1230 - 16th St.) is the National Rifle Association, with a splendid collection of firearms on the 4th floor. (The collection does not circulate. Sorry, gang!) One block down & a block-and-a-half to the right, at 1610 H St., is the little Truxtun-Decatur Naval Museum.

Slightly farther away, but still within walking distance, is the Corcoran Gallery of Art at 17th and E. The collection is specially strong in American art. A couple of blocks further down 17th Street is the splendid Pan American Union building, well deserving a lookin if you like Latin-American palaces.

7) Mount Vernon is about two hours' travel time away; take the S-2 bus to 12th & Pennsylvania Avenue, and catch the AB&W Bus Lines' Mount Vernon bus. Admission to the estate, 75¢; reckon on a good two hours for the tour of the grounds. If you want to drive, just get on the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway and follow it thru Alexandria (where it's tagged "Washington Street"); ten miles beyond Alexandria you'll come to it. Free parking lots in the area.

8) Fun & Games. Glen Echo Amusement Park is at the end of the #20 and D-6 lines; catch the D-4 by the hotel and have the driver tell you where to transfer. It's a fairly good amusement park; no Disneyland, but plenty good enough for an afternoon's entertainment.

9) The Zoo. Any of the buses that go out Connecticut Avenue will take you to the National Zoological Gardens, which is part of the Smithsonian. It's a pleasant visit for an afternoon. The animals are fed between 1 and 3:30; you can check the exact time for each set of critturs at the Zoo offices.

10) Bookstores. (Well, these are sights to fans!) Few in the area, mostly poor. Estate Books at 1749 Pennsylvania Avenue is not only the nearest, but probably the best; hours are odd. There are two or three along 9th Street; catch the U-2 or X-2 bus at Lafayette Park and walk down 9th from there -- you'll spot them with no trouble.

11) Special Events. The Post and Star both have regular daily-events announcement sections, and current-program theatre pages.

VII. AROUND THE HOTEL: FOODS & SERVICES

1) Good Food. Frankly, DC has no restaurants people come from miles away to dine at; the best in the area, probably, are those in the hotel itself. A strip to the west, though -- from K up Connecticut to L and left down L to 19th -- is fairly crawling with Fancy Expensive Restaurants. Or whatever F.X.R. do when there are a lot of them together. The best spots in town for large parties are by chance also the best ethnic restaurants in the city, but they're a good ways off: the China Inn, at 631 H St., and the AV Ristorante Italiano (familiar to Disclave attendees) at 607 New York Avenue. For either of these, take the U-2 or X-2 bus from Lafayette Park to 7th Street; walk a block up for the AV, a block down for the China Inn. Neither are pretentious-looking; both are good -- and they don't mind slacks & shirtsleeves.

2) Snacks & Such. A quick cheap breakfast is available at the YWCA Cafeteria, 17th & K, or Scholl's, K and Vermont Avenue. Late birds can get a fair sandwich menu at Eddie Leonard's, 17th and M, until 4 AM; hamburgers and cokes available 24 hours at the White Tower, 1606 K. These last two both prepare takeouts.

3) Party Food. The M Street Delicatessen at 1613 M Street, two blocks up and one over from the hotel, has a selection of snacks & drinks limited in size but excellent in range; they deliver. (Phone NA 8-8304; open till 9PM.) It's close enough to drop in and choose for yourself. A still larger selection, but open only until 6 is at Magruder's, 1138 Connecticut Avenue. For standard items, try the local grocery -- Safeway, at 1139 - 15th Street. Liquor & ice is available at Mayflower, 1122 Connecticut Avenue; this store is open till midnight Saturday. Be warned: nobody sells liquor Sunday.

4) Other Goods & Stuff: Photo supplies, equipment, and camera rentals are available at Conn Camera, 1029 Connecticut Avenue, and Stewart Camera, 1421 H Street. Rush valet service is available at 1405 and 1416 H Street. There's even a stationery shop right next to the hotel, at 1515 K. Hertz Rent-a-Car is at 1622 L; Avis, at 17th and M. I've mentioned 24-hour snacks up above; there's also a 24-hour drug store on 14th Street at Thomas Circle (People's. The Russian ambassador drove by it one day and nearly flipped...) The area's 24-hour repair garage, with 24-hour tow service, is Call Carl's at 1250 - 24th Street (phone FE 3-4100).

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS NECESSITIES

1) Reading Matter. The Evening Star has B.C., Pogo, and Miss Peach. The Post has Peanuts, Steve Canyon, Prince Valiant, and editorial cartoons by Herbblock and Mauldin.

2) Listening matter. "Rocky and His Friends" are on Channel 5 at 5 PM, Monday thru Friday. "Twilight Zone" is on Thursday, Channel 9, 9PM. Unless it's cut from the programming, "Shock" -- reruns of old horror films -- comes on Saturday after midnight, Channel 9. "The Bullwinkle Show" is on Channel 4 Sundays, 5:30 PM.

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SPECIAL WARNING

There are a number of things you'll want to watch out for while in D.C. I've mentioned some, but I'll re-stress them here and add others:

1) Watch out for the starlings -- the trees downtown are full of the things, and so are the building ledges. Drat Willie Shakespeare, anyway.

2) I've told you about the nutty liquor laws we have here; see page 8 again.

3) Keep an eye open for yellow one-way arrows. These are posted on streets which are one-way during the rush hours only (7-9:30AM or 4-6:30PM).

4) Speaking of traffic, check the comments on page 8 about parking and crossing streets afoot.

5) Be infinitely careful to catch only D.C. Transit buses (green & white) when travelling about town. The buses of AB&W (red-white-&-black) and Arnold Lines (yellow & red) pick up passengers in town, but their charters do not allow them to transport people within the district -- so unless you want a trip across the city line, beware!

6) Once again: don't over-program yourself if you go sightseeing. In a hot, humid town like Washington, tiring yourself out far from your hotel is no joke.

7) I'll repeat here that our hotel, and all the addresses I've given, are in the North-West quadrant of Washington. The other three quadrants are mostly residential or industrial -- but if you're driving into town, don't forget to make sure the street signs are tagged NW! 16th Street and K street also occur in NE and SE.

And now, what have I forgotten? I'll think of five essential items I've left out, the moment this leaves my hands...