

NHshorty's and BuffaloBill's May 30, 2012 Trip Report – Part IV

Friday 6/1

Here's what our plan was for the day:

Breakfast: Unplanned

Lunch: Grazing

Dinner: ADR at France @ 7:20

Morning to Mid Afternoon: Animal Kingdom

Afternoon: Pool & Down Time and/or EPCOT

Evening: EPCOT we have an 7:20 ADR at France, then MK till 1AM

Animal Kingdom

- Expedition Everest
- Kilimanjaro Safari
- Lion King Show
- Nemo Show

EPCOT

- Caramel in Germany
- Mission Space
- Maelstrom
- American Singers
- Rose & Crown
- Illuminations
- Japan Gardens
- Cottage in Canada

MK

- ~~Jungle Cruise~~
- ~~Buzz Lightyear~~
- ~~New Dumbo~~
- ~~Crystal Palace~~
- ~~Casey's Corner~~
- Space Mountain
- ~~Haunted Mansion~~
- ~~Railroad~~
- ~~Let the memories begin~~
- ~~Wishes Fireworks~~

This was a THREE park day, so settle in.

It was foggy and drizzling when we woke up. Breakfast consisted of a run (really a walk) to Roaring Forks inside of the WL where we purchased cereal, pastries, and fruit. We had the fixings for coffee and tea with us and other supplies in NHshorty's Owner's Locker. The drizzling stopped so we could eat on the balcony of the villa.



By 9:30 we were approaching the AK entrance and it was now raining intermittently. I had to repeat the cast member guest pass routine at the appropriate turnstile and we were in.



First stop was Camp Mini Mickey for the Lion King Show. NHshorty and I have seen this show multiple times and it is still a moving experience. For us, this is a must see.



We didn't take any pictures doing the show. We have tons from previous trips and lots of video too. When we exited the show, it was still raining intermittently and we headed off to Africa to either do the safari or get a Fastpass for it. The wait time was 45 minutes and the fast pass return time was in the afternoon, so we decided to head for the Finding Nemo show with a stop at Expedition Everest to either ride or get fast passes.



On our way to see the Yeti the intermittent rain became the constant rain, so we continued on past the mountain directly to the Nemo show.

This was the first time seeing this show for both of us. It was very well done and enjoyable, but seeing it once is probably enough. It might be that seeing it back to back with the Lion King show causes an unfair comparison. Where the Lion King show is centered on the soundtrack from the movie and is a series of production numbers without any real story continuity, Finding Nemo is a very compressed operatic version of the movie that wasn't a musical to begin with. It's really Finding Nemo, the abbreviated musical without any tunes you can remember. Lastly, Finding Nemo opens with Nemo's mother getting killed. A real feel-good moment. Anyway, we enjoyed the cast's performances.

When we exited the Finding Nemo show, the constant rain had become the constant heavy rain. Since neither of us wanted to ride Everest in the rain, we headed to the Yak and Yeti for lunch. Unfortunately, without a reservation the wait was about an hour. We bailed on that and continued back to Africa and the Harambe Villiage and tried to get seated at Tusker House. Again the wait without a reservation was an hour-ish, so we found shelter next door at the Dawa Bar.

By this time it was almost 1:00. I got a glass of sangria for NHshorty and a something-African-lager for myself from the bar while NHshorty got us a table in the non-leaking-roof-section. Continuing my role as hunter gatherer, I went across the street to Tamu Tamu Refreshments and got two Turkey and Swiss on Focaccia sandwiches and brought them back across the street to the Dawa Bar.



While we were eating, the previously heavy constant rain shifted into biblical rain mode. We finished our eats and drinks and decided to call it a day at the AK. We got further drenched waiting for the tram to the parking lot. Finally I fired up the trusty rented Nissan and we beat a wet retreat back to the warmth of the WL.

After hot showers, running our wet clothes and sneakers through the in-room washer and dryer, and some general down time, we headed out to EPCOT and our 7:20 ADR at Chefs de France.





On the way to the World Showcase we paused in Future World to try Beverly. In a word, “Disgusting”.

We made a few stops on our way to France. The first was to purchase an umbrella (this was eventually left in the Owner’s Locker for future use). We also stopped at Canada (we went to the right this one time) to snap some pictures of the cottage for a co-worker.



Off Kilter was also doing their show while we were walking by. One of the tunes they played was the blues shuffle “Oh Yeah” by Johnny A of Malden Massachusetts, which is south of New Hampshire, not north where Canada actually is.

We made a pit stop in England and called the phone booths. There was an adult couple near the center phone (which is not in a booth), but as soon as the phone started ringing they took off. A teenage boy answered the phone while his sister stood next to him. I asked him if he was enjoying EPCOT and in a very confused voice he said, "Ahhh? yeah?" I told him to stop teasing his sister and have fun at Disney World and hung up.



Do you have Prince William in the can? Well, let him out!

We continued our stroll to France and I took this potentially artistic photo of the World Showcase entry to EPCOT.



The picture being painted by the now-absent painter is of the building across the “river”.

We arrived in France with time to spare, so we explored and visited the shops.



After announcing our arrival at the Chefs De France podium, we were seated promptly by a French person from France, and in short order, our slightly spacy waiter from France, Mathieu, arrived on the scene to take care of us.

Further proving that NHshorty and I have very similar tastes in food, we both ordered the same salad and entrée. NHshorty had a glass of red burgundy and I enjoyed a bottle of Kronenbourg 1664 beer or two.

Here's a picture of the Salade maison (House Salad).



Here's a picture of the Filet de boeuf grille, sauce au poivre noir Gratin Dauphinois et haricots verts (Grilled tenderloin of beef with black peppercorn sauce, original potato gratin of Savoy and green beans).



For dessert NHshorty had a Profiterolles au Chocolat (Puff choux with vanilla ice cream topped with chocolate sauce).



I had Creme Brulee (Vanilla creme brulee). I love crème brulee, but the one I had at the Cali Grill was way better.



The service was just OK and the food was above average, but not worth the price (see below).

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Chefs De France
Store Number 9777
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

CAST MEMBER: Mathieu V 627 TABLE NUMBER: 23
CHECK NUMBER: 2-1064 GUEST COUNT: 2

TRX RESUMED 0003 0801
SUSPENDED ON 6/1/2012 8:33:35 PM

***** Stored Order *****

SEAT NUMBER 1
  Profiterolles 8.99
  2 Beer 13.14
  Hcuse Salad 6.99
  Beef -D 34.99
  MEDIUM
SEAT NUMBER 2
  Gls Red Burgandy 10.25
  Hcuse Salad 6.99
  Beef -D 34.99
  MEDIUM
  Creme Brulee 8.99

SUBTOTAL 125.33
TAX 8.15
AMOUNT DUE 133.48

VF VISA PURCHASE 133.48 P

Suggested Tip
Percentage 18% Tip 22.56
           20% Tip 25.07
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We didn't really linger over our meals mostly due to a screaming (I'm talking a shrill kind of scream that makes your toes ache) from a lovely child a couple tables away from us. Again, the parental units of said child ignored the screaming and the looks from the other diners and angrily stared at each other.

Lastly there was the issue of the woman wearing an extremely short skirt who shouldn't have been wearing an extremely short skirt under any circumstances. Well, what she really shouldn't have done was gotten out of her chair to help her child cut his food. While directly in my line of sight behind NHshorty and facing away from me, she bent at the waste. Well, let's just say she did not shop at Victoria's Secret. We were out of Chefs at 8:33.

We continued our stroll looking for a good vantage point to see Illuminations and finally settled on a spot near the train garden near Germany. My inexperience with my new camera did not yield ZapperZ-quality fireworks pictures. I only include the picture below to show how uncrowded the World Showcase was.



The beginning of Illuminations had a minor change since our last visit in April 2011. This time the torches were extinguished prior to the announcer's spiel, but at the end of the announcement, you still hear someone exhale loudly. At this point, in prior years, the torches would be extinguished (like someone blew them out). Since they were already out, the big breath just dimmed the ambient lighting.

Following illuminations, we looked in the caramel shop windows.



We continued our stroll around the World Showcase, then into Future World, the tram, and eventually to the car. It was a quick trip from EPCOT to the Contemporary, where we parked the car as close to the MK as possible. We walked to the Contemporary's monorail station and were transported to the MK for EMH.

We walked up Main Street to the Crystal Palace, which was closed, but we were able to get a good look of the empty interior. There was no waiting for POC, so we just walked on. We had some complete and rather confused strangers take our picture on the bridge from Frontier Land.



We wandered through the hub to Tomorrow Land with the idea of going to Space Mountain and the Laugh Floor. Space Mountain had a 30+ minute wait and the Fastpass entrance was closed, and the Laugh Floor was closed for the night. So, we rode the people mover again (we love this ride). FYI - They are still looking for Mr. Morrow, Mr. Tom Morrow.

At around 11:15, as we were going down Main Street towards the exit, we took that left turn down the dead end street and visited the jewelry and Crystal Arts. At Crystal Arts, you can see a demonstration of glass blowing and of course, purchase some blown glass Christmas Decorations and some Mickey inspired glassware. We agreed that this will be something for the next trip.



The martini glasses were about \$45 a piece.

We each posed for a picture with Roy and Minnie. The construction wrapper at Casey's Corner really screws up the view of the castle.



We had planned on doing the monorail crawl the previous night after our dinner at the Cali Grill, but we were so tired we postponed it to tonight. At the time we left the MK, only the express monorail was running, so we decided to just take a boat over to the Poly for a drink. By the time we got off the boat at the Poly dock and found our way upstairs, the bars had closed for the night. No getting freaky among the tiki for us.

At this late hour (now pushing midnight) the only way to get from the Poly to our car at the Contemporary was to take a boat back to the MK and walk, and this is exactly what we did. And that's when an unexpected piece of magic happened. We were the only people on the boat from the Poly to the MK, and because of the volume of boat traffic all the docks at the MK were occupied, we had to loiter about 100 yards off the MK dock area for about 15 minutes. Couldn't do a thing but look at the MK from the water at night. A very romantic little cruise - too bad the captain refused to wear the blindfold.

The walk from MK to the Contemporary followed by the drive from the Contemporary to the WL was uneventful.

So, that's a 3 park day. Let's see how did we did against our alleged plan:

Breakfast: Unplanned - **Did it!**

Lunch: Grazing - **Did it!**

Dinner: ADR at France @ 7:20 - **Did it!**

Morning to Mid Afternoon: Animal Kingdom - **Did it!**

Afternoon: Pool & **Down Time and/or EPCOT - Did it!**

Evening: EPCOT we have an 7:20 ADR at France, them MK till 1AM - **Did it!**

Animal Kingdom	EPCOT	MK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expedition Everest— Nope - Kilimanjaro Safari— Nope - Lion King Show - Did it! - Nemo Show - Did it! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caramel in Germany— Not Yet. - Mission Space— Not Yet. - Maelstrom— Not Yet. - American Singers— Not Yet. - Rose & Crown - Did it! - Illuminations - Did it! - Japan Gardens— Nope. - Cottage in Canada - Did it! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Jungle Cruise — Buzz Lightyear — New Dumbo — Crystal Palace — Casey's Corner - Space Mountain— Nope — Haunted Mansion — Railroad — Let the memories begin — Wishes Fireworks

NHshorty's pedometer reported that on Friday her total mileage was 8.49 miles! Your mileage may vary.