

Negro man with stuttering handicap: Go down here (motioning east down Columbus Avenue). Straight down, all the way to Scollay Square. No. When you get to the end, go right a couple until you come to Washington. Go all the way down Washington to Scollay. Ooooh, you got 25 or 30 blocks. It's right downtown ... (thinking) ... I'll tell you a short cut. Go down here (pointing east down Columbus Avenue) about ... say, five or six blocks. Go left (pointing north), until you reach the Common. Go across the Common and over the hill. You won't have to go through downtown. You'll be right there, near Scollay. Got that now? Down here now (pointing east down Columbus Avenue) about 6 blocks and go left (pointing north). Cut over the Common. You'll come to a big hill. Go over the hill, and down (motioning right) about 6 blocks. You'll be right at Scollay Square.

Oh, you can ask anybody down there. When you get near Scollay Square, anyone can tell you. They all know Scollay Square. It's on the other side of the hill. You'll save plenty going through the Common and over the hill.

Oh, it's a good long walk. If you walk fast, ... 45 minutes, ... an hour.

Two young Negro women:

One: Hi, Honey. Scollay Square. Hey, do you know where Scollay Square is?

Other: Right back down that way (pointing east down Columbus Avenue).

One: Right down that way (pointing east). You catch a cab, honey. It'll cost ya 45 cents -- right to Scollay Square. (Leaving, yells back:) You go straight down Huntington Avenue, all the way to Scollay Square.

Young Negro man: You got me. (Thinks.) You'd best get a cab and tell him Scollay Square. I tell you. (Pointing south down West Newton Street) Go down there to Washington Street. Go Washington all the way. I tell you. You go over to Washington (pointing south) and ask someone for Northampton Station. Northampton. You take the 'car. That way. That's the only way I can tell you. Ooooh, no. You can't walk it. Not from here. It's far, far. Miles and miles away. You go over to Washington and catch a 'car. That's the only way I can tell you. Or ... you can go down there (pointing west, at policeman) and ask the policeman. He can tell you how to walk it. No I wouldn't know which direction. You ask somebody else which way. You ask that policeman.

Ooh. I don't know. I mean, I never been there. You ask the policeman.

It's a long way. Yeah. You ask the policeman.

Columbus and Warren to Scollay Square (continued)

Handless Negro man: Yeah, Specs? Scollay? Yeah, right straight down (pointing east down Columbus Avenue). Straight (with emphasis) down. You're not lookin' for a nice girl, are ya?

Ah. Ah. It's just a big square. It's got the Scollay Theater there. Yeah, that's good enough.

Oh, twenty minutes. You walk fast.

Negro policeman sitting in parked patrol car: Yessir. You riding or ...? Go straight down here (pointing east down Columbus Avenue) to Tremont Street. Go left (motioning north), all the way to Scollay Square. You got that now? Down to Tremont Street, then left (indicating right angle with hands). You'll pass the _____ Hotel when you come to Tremont. You'll go left.

Scollay Square? Well you'll pass the Common, on the left. There'll be theaters on your right. You'll pass the Park Street Church, and graveyards. At the ends of Pemberton Square and Court Street, you'll be ... Pemberton Square and Court Street come together at Scollay Square. It'll be 3 or 4 more blocks -- that's all Scollay Square.

Oh, it should take you no more'n twenty minutes.

Arlington Square to Scollay Square

12 noon – 1 p.m.

Oriental man with sharp accent: I dunno. Ask some taxicab (pointing to parked taxi).

Man, probably drunk: No, no.

Man, probably mentally deficient: No, I'm not acquainted around here. I'm from Maine myself ...

Man: Scollay. Yeah. Take the next car that comes along (pointing to disappearing street car). Any one will take you right to Scollay Square. Walking? Sure. Sure I can. Go straight down there (pointing east down Tremont Street). You'll come to Tremont Street. No, wait. We're on Tremont Street. Just follow this street all the way to Scollay Square. Just stay on Tremont, all the way. It's -- ohh -- maybe a mile away. Just stay on this street.

Oh, it's another of Boston's squares. Right down there (pointing east down Tremont Street). There's a lot of restaurants and things. You can't miss it. Tremont runs right into it.

No more than ten minutes. It's a short walk.

2-3 p.m.

Young woman: Scollay Square. Oh, that's a long way. How are you goin', by bus? Oh, well, you just go down Tremont (pointing east down Tremont Street) here. Here. Tremont'll take you all the way to Scollay. It's a long walk. You should take that bus. You can catch it there at the Club Zara (pointing across the street). Oh, well, you just go straight down Tremont. You can't miss it.

There's a penny arcade there. And Jack's Lighthouse tavern. You'll see Jack's Lighthouse Club. Jack's Lighthouse is right in the middle of Scollay. You can't miss it.

About fifteen minutes.

Young woman with a child: I'm sorry. I don't live around here. I wouldn't know.

Arlington Square to Scollay Square (continued)

Old woman: Yes. Take this car (pointing to approaching street car). Oh, right down this way (pointing east down Tremont Street). Right down. Straight down. (Runs to catch street car.)

Man: Scollay Square. You wanta take the car (referring to street car)? Uh ... you go ... this is Tremont Street. You go Tremont Street (motioning east down Tremont Street). This here's Tremont. Right straight ahead. Can't miss it. All the way, right straight ahead. You can't miss it.

Well, it's the end (motioning east). Right at the end. And there's a subway entrance, a big subway entrance right there. That's how you'll recognize Scollay Square when you come to it.

Well, about twenty minutes.

Woman: Go over there (pointing to MTA entrance) and go to Park Street. Transfer at Park Street -- someone can tell you. Oh, walking? Goodness, I wouldn't know. I wouldn't have any idea. You'll have to go to Park Street (pointing to MTA entrance). You've got a long way, but I wouldn't try to tell you how. I don't have any idea. About thirty minutes.
You'll see when you get there. You're a regular question-box, aren't you?

Man: Uhhh. (Pauses.) I can't direct you. But take this street (pointing north up Summer Street) up to the end, and ask somebody to tell you from there. That's the best I can tell you.

No, I really couldn't.

Oh, ten or 12 minutes, at the most.

SP-2 soldier: (Shakes head.) No, this is the first time I've been in Boston. I know you're close. I mean, this is the first time I've ever been in Boston.

Man: Scollay Square. Yeah. Go right over to the subway (pointing to MTA entrance). Walkin'? Go right up (pointing north up Summer Street) ... take Washington Street right over (motioning to the right from Summer Street). It runs right into Scollay. Just go up there -- that's Summer Street (pointing north up Summer Street) -- to Washington and go right. You can't miss it.

Oh, you'll see it. Washington goes right to it. It's a big square, with lots of theaters and things.

Oh, about half an hour.

Young California woman: Scollay. Gee, I don't know. I think you'll either have to catch a bus to Haymarket, or go over there (pointing to MTA entrance) and go to Park Street and transfer to Haymarket. Scollay is on the way to Haymarket, I think. I've never been in Boston much before. But I think it's over there (pointing east). Walking? Gee, I couldn't tell you. (Pause.) I think you'd do best to go up (pointing north up Summer Street) to Washington and go right. You should run right into Scollay. That's the only way I know.

Oh, it's another square. Nothing distinctive about it. Like all the others around here. You know Boston's squares. You know (laughing), where two streets cross. I've been there before. It's crowded. And dirty (with emphasis). Nothing really distinctive. I really couldn't tell you as well as others. I've only been there once.

Gee, that's hard to say. Probably fifteen minutes. But I wouldn't really know -- it might be five. I think there's an information desk inside (pointing to South Station). Why don't you try there?

Young man: Straight ahead (waving madly in westerly direction down Salem Street). Straight through. Straight -- straight.

You can't miss it. You'll run straight into it. Can't go any farther.

Oh, about twenty-thirty minutes.

Woman with a child: Scollay Square? Let's see now ... (Looks all around, finally points west down Salem Street.) You can go straight down there. You'll come right to it. You'll pass a lot of cross streets and a traffic light. Go through the underpass, and up the hill. Can't miss it. Straight ahead.

Oh, the market. There's the market. Blackstone Street. You can't miss the market. Through the underpass, and up the hill. Scollay's as far as you can go. You can't miss it. No, the market's on Blackstone Street. You'll go down here (pointing west down Salem Street). You'll come to the underpass and market. Straight on up the hill you'll come to Scollay Square.

Oh, about twenty or 25 minutes. Are you walkin' it? Well, about 25 minutes.

Young man with heavy Italian accent: Eh -- Scollay Square? Yes. You go straight (motioning west down Salem Street). Straight down, and up to Scollay. You go under ... under bridge. You know bridge? You will see bridge down street (pointing west down Salem Street). You go under bridge to Scollay. Scollay straight ahead from bridge.

Ah, Scollay Square is straight ahead, at end. Ask anybody. Anybody ahead. Anybody tell you Scollay Square. You know? You ask. You must ask. You go straight through under bridge, and you will see Scollay. Straight up hill. It not far. It take maybe ten minute.

Grizzled old-timer: (Shakes head.) Before, you go over (motioning south toward Hanover Street) one and straight down (motioning west) all the way to Scollay. No more. It was easy before (continually indicating right angle trip to Scollay Square). That was before the new highway. Walkin'? Go straight down here (pointing west down Salem Street) to traffic lights. Go through underpass right (with emphasis) to Scollay. Ha ha. Straight through to Scollay. Ya know where the traffic lights are? They're right at the end of this here street. At the lights, cross the street. Take the stairs and path through the underpass, and go straight up to Scollay. It's straight from here. Go by the traffic lights, and through the underpass, straight to Scollay. Ha ha.

It'll be the end, as far as you can go. Ha ha ha ha.

Five minutes. It's not far.

Nurse: I wouldn't know any way, unless you took the subway. I don't know if you could even walk it. I'm not acquainted with this district. I know it's that way (gesturing over shoulder in northerly direction). You can get a subway down here at the Charles Street station. Go right at the stoplight (pointing to Cambridge Street). You'll see the traffic circle. I think you'll have to change at Park Street. The subway goes to Scollay Square, I'm sure. That's the only way I can tell you.

I don't know. I don't even know whether it's close enough to walk it.

Nurse: Scollay. Oh, that's easy. Just go down to the stoplight (motioning to Cambridge Street) and go left. Keep straight on, and that's it. That's all. (Laughs.)

Oh. Well, when you come to the Bowdoin Square Garage ... (laughing) ... that's it, all around there.

About ten minutes.

Man: Scollay Square? By train? No, I don't know. I don't know the first thing about this place. You'll have to ask ... (looking around, pointing) ... ask that policeman over there. Sure, he can tell you.

Fat fifteen-year-old boy: Umm. Scollay Square Cambridge? Scollay Square, Boston. It's a long way. Are you taking the underground? Scollay's on the other side of town, right downtown. Oh, it's far, to walk. Go down to the stoplight (pointing to Cambridge Street). It's about a half a mile. It's a long way. I'd take a cab in this weather. (It is raining hard.) Oh, well then, go left at the light, and just keep going. (Laughing) That's all I can tell you. You'll run right into it. You'll pass the Bowdoin Square Garage. Keep on going. Oh, it's 'way down there. You can't miss it -- it's a big place. But, in this weather, I'd take a cab. You'll see a policeman in the middle. You can ask him, wherever you want to go.

It's got a market. The Market Building's there -- you can't miss that (with emphasis). A real big building. Yeah, right in the middle.

About a hour and a half. Depends on how fast you walk. I don't know how fast you (with emphasis) walk, but for me ...

Mass General Hospital to Scollay Square (continued)

Old man: Yes. See where that red light is (pointing to Cambridge Street)? Go this way (indicating left) at the light. It's about half a mile down. Straight down. You'll come to Bowdoin Square first. You'll see the big Bowdoin Building. Keep going -- you can't miss it. Scollay Square isn't much further.

I can tell you how to recognize it. You'll see the subway entrances there, right in the middle. That's how to recognize it.

Oh, about five minutes to Bowdoin, five minutes to Scollay. Ten minutes.

Young orderly with slight foreign accent: Yeah. You walkin'? Go down -- see where that red light is (motioning to Cambridge Street)? Take a left there and go all the way. Stick to the right. The right hand side all the way. That'll take you right into Scollay Square.

There's a couple of movies there. And a subway station in the middle. (Thinks awhile.) Yeah, that's about the best way to recognize it, I'd say.

About ten minutes.