

Day Late

I am now in Beijing, arriving late Friday afternoon China Time. I was supposed to get here last night (Thursday in China) with most of the other teachers after flying Wednesday morning from Denver to Chicago and then that evening from Chicago to Beijing. The first flight was supposed to be at 10:36 AM in an old American Airlines MD Super-80. But there was a navigational instrument problem causing an initial delay of departure by 10 minutes, then to 1 PM. When a 6 PM departure was announced because replacement parts needed to be flown in, it was obvious that I would miss the intended flight to Beijing from Chicago.

The American Airlines ticket agent put me on a flight to Dallas with an overnight stay in a hotel and a Thursday morning flight to Beijing from Dallas. The airlines paid for dinner and the hotel. Another teacher, Estrelia Segura from Fort Collins, had the same change of plans. Thereafter it was very good that we worked through the subsequent challenges together. In Dallas we learned that our suitcases eventually went to Chicago and therefore missed the flight to Beijing. On Thursday morning we learned that my suitcase was being flown from Chicago to Dallas and would be on our new flight to Beijing. But it appeared that the Estrelia's suitcase was still in Chicago waiting to be sent from there with a likely arrival time of late Friday evening in Beijing (after the time that I am writing this note).

We eventually got to Beijing. At Baggage claim I spotted my suitcase which had just then been taken off the moving baggage rack. Estrelia spotted her suitcase right beside mine. So we were overjoyed with that situation, for it was the end of our potential problems. A representative of our teaching group was waiting for us at the airport and took us to our hotel in northwestern Beijing.



We got to fly on the new Boeing 787 aircraft, shown in the first photo with Estrelia in the foreground. (I also have a photo with me in that location.) The aircraft is lighter weight and more fuel efficient than others because much of the plane is made of a strong carbon fiber compound rather than aluminum metal. The second photo shows the interior from my seat (30A, the last window seat in the plane). Across most of the aircraft are three sets of three seats, making a total of 9 seats per row, with the two aisles in between the sets of seats. Notice also on the right side that the windows are of variable darkness. At least one is nearly black. One is a light cyan (blue-green) and one seems bright white. Every window has a substance like a liquid crystal computer or TV screen whose brightness is controlled electrically. Of course, for photography I want colorless windows. The next photo shows a river in northern Texas that has been flooding, with a brown stain on lands near the river. I used a PhotoShop enhancement to reduce the normal blue haze of the atmosphere for the companion photo.

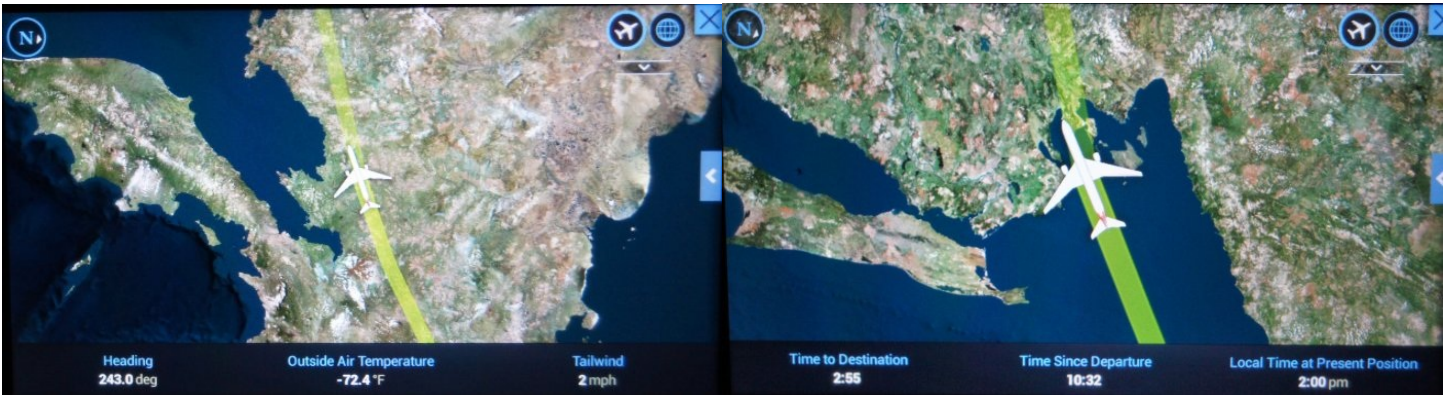


As we were starting to fly over the Canadian Plains someone in the cockpit made all of the windows turn their darkest blue-green until the last hour of the flight. That lets passengers sleep or view their TV screens better. Before and after that we could adjust the brightness ourselves with controls below each window. I was greatly disappointed. I

took photos anyway through the dark windows. The camera adjusted for the darkness by taking a longer exposure. Photoshop brightened the photos further but could not remove all of the excessive blue-green color. In the next photo I show mountains, clouds, and glaciers in Alaska, first as from the camera through the dark window and second with the PhotoShop enhancement.



When I fly I like to have the flight map showing. The first map image shows us over eastern Siberia. Notice the air temperature outside the aircraft. The second map image shows the location of the final photos of this note: floating ice in sea water off the coast of Siberia.



The delay in our flights meant that Estrelia and I missed the group flight to the Great Wall. We were told by the others that the weather was very cloudy/misty (drizzle?) and so not much could be seen there. I had previously been to the Great wall several times, including one with such poor weather.

Ed Holroyd, Friday, 26 June 2015 (China time)

