

Sheryl Howe

From: "Sheryl Howe" <sahowe@wbt.org>
To: <sahowe@wbt.org>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2004 11:31 AM
Subject: I'm here --- sorry to those expecting to hear yesterday...

Unfortunately, I don't have internet access (yet) and so can't actually tell you I'm here until tomorrow...

I arrived in Cuiaba (Brazil), WITH LUGGAGE even.

It was relatively pain free trip, EVEN tho ...

(1) they told me at checkin in Charlotte that there wasn't enough time on my Miami layover to get my luggage to the next flight and therefore I should not have high hopes of my luggage arriving with me in Brazil. Also, possibly to help ensure my bags didn't make the Brazil flight, the Charlotte people wrote the wrong flight number on the luggage tag.

and (2) on the long flight (Miami to Sao Paulo) the remote controls for the three seats in my row were busted --- no watching movies, no music and no light for reading (because turning on the light was controlled by the remote -- which was broken.) I was, however, impressed that I got the gist of the problem in Portuguese. The other two in my row were Portuguese speakers so the flight attendants mainly spoke Portuguese to us as a group (those of us in the broken remote section). Even with nothing to do for eight hours, didn't manage to get a whole lot of sleep.

and (3) my entire three and a half hour layover in Sao Paulo was spent waiting in various lines (mostly in immigration --- apparently --- not trying to be critical of my temporary new home because maybe this was some unusual situation today--- they believe that they just only need two people working in immigration --- it was like being at Walmart with 50 check out lanes and hardly any of them open. Why build so many if you're not going to use them? I'm just saying, you'd think, even if you had to go through customs and immigration, given three and a half hours, you wouldn't be in any danger of missing your connecting flight...)

Notice how even though my trip went super smoothly, I'm still able to whine about things --- it's a gift really... and also a character flaw...

Very nice people met me at the airport. I had lunch with them and I believe I was coherent then, but I can't be certain because the whole no-sleep/standing in line for 3 hours thing was kicking in. They brought me back here to my cute little duplex, where I will live for the whole time I'm here --- no of moving periodically to spice things up. It's well-stocked (I even have food to last until Tuesday when someone will be taking me to a grocery store) and it has (1) air conditioning (a VERY good thing --- it truly is miserable hot) , (2) water you can drink out of the tap without filtering it or anything and (3) a shower that's way taller than me and (4) a little shelf on a tree outside where I can leave food if I'd like to feed the monkeys and (5) so far no wildlife inside (insect or otherwise).

Trust all is well with you!

Sheryl