

## December 2-3, 2017 (Montevideo, Uruguay & Flying Home)

We get up around 4 AM because we have a 7:20 AM ferry to Montevideo, Uruguay this morning. Fortunately we packed last night.

We depart the hotel at 5 AM with the intent of taking the subway closer to the ferry terminal. But when we get to the subway, we see that on Saturdays it doesn't start running until 6 AM. This is too late for us. We know we want to get to the ferry terminal at least an hour before it



departs because we need to go through immigration.

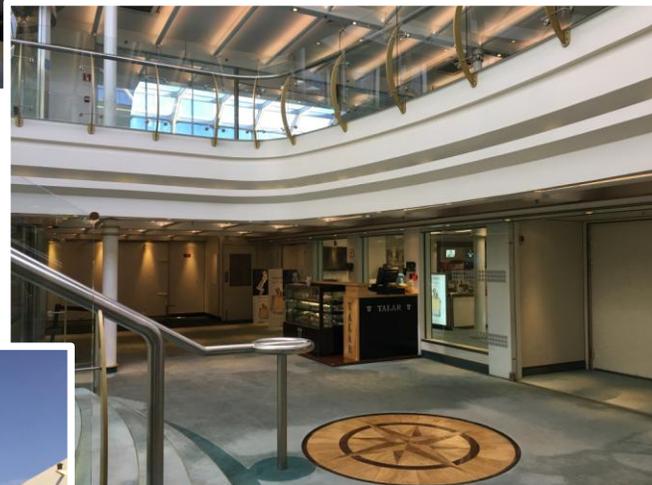
We walk the little more than a mile to the ferry terminal while dragging our roller bags. It takes us about 30 minutes.

After going through Argentina departure and



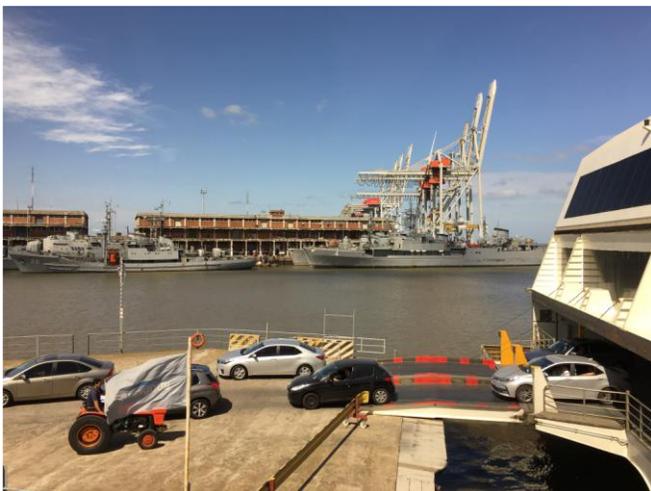
Uruguay arrival immigration, we go to the waiting room to board the ferry. Seating isn't assigned so we want to board early to get seats together.

We board the ferry and find seats together. There's not much to see on the ferry as the



windows aren't all that clear. There is a large duty-free shop with overpriced stuff. We mostly spend the 2 hours sleeping.

When we arrive in Montevideo, it's only a short walk to the area where our hotel is when we were her at the start of our trip. Our first task is to find an ATM machine because we have very little Uruguay money and not even enough to take the city bus to the main



bus terminal. My wife stays with our bags while I seek out an ATM.

As it's Saturday, I'm finding it difficult to find an ATM. I find several banks, but the ATM is behind the locked door as the bank is closed. I eventually find a bank with an open ATM and withdraw \$2,000 (\$67 US). But it's not good. I'm given a single \$2,000 bill which will be difficult to spend and certainly can't be spent on the city bus.

I return to my wife. She takes the \$2,000 bill



and goes

in the nearby grocery store. But they won't accept it with her small purchase.

We decide the best way to spend it is on lunch at one of the nearby steak restaurants. We each order one of the steaks. But our problem doesn't really get solved as our meal is expensive and uses up most of the \$2,000, although we

have enough remaining in small bills to take the city bus to the main bus terminal. Our steaks aren't great as they over cook them a bit too much, making them tough.



After my wife buys a few souvenirs using dollars, we take the city bus to the main bus terminal. There we exchange some dollars for Uruguay money. We also buy our bus tickets to get



to the airport later this

afternoon. We spend a couple of hours at the bus terminal as it's inside a mall.

A little after 4 PM we take the bus to the airport. We have about 4 hours until our flight departs. I change my clothes. We also get supper at the airport McDonalds.

When we check into our flight on American Airlines, it's a very weird situation. The agent who's managing the line asks us if we're married. When we answer that we are, he continues to ask the question several more times like he doesn't believe us. Because my wife is of Chinese background, does he not believe we can be married? Eventually he stops asking us. When we get to the ticketing agent at the counter, she too asks us if we're married. We don't understand why it matters to American Airlines that we're married. No other airline has ever asks us about our marital status. But to American Airlines, they apparently require us to be married to check-in and fly together and they don't seem to want to believe us. We do check in and get beyond this strange situation.

After going through security, we find our gate. My wife goes to the duty free shop to spend the rest of Uruguay money we have.

The plane boards and departs on time. We arrive in Miami on time. Although we have 2 hours to go through U.S. customs, we have no problem getting that done and making our connecting flight home. By mid-morning Sunday, we're home.