

March 22-23, 2013 (Leaving Home)

Our flight on the 22nd departs at 2:25 PM which has its advantages and disadvantages. It's nice to be able to sleep in and have additional time to pack, but it makes the day seem longer as we wait for it to become time to leave for the airport.

We arrive at the airport 2 ½ hours early and there seems to be some difficulty in getting Yiyi's boarding passes. We confirm with the agent that we have the electronic Australian tourist visa but her computer is not letting her print Yiyi's boarding pass. Another person comes to help her and they get on the phone with someone else. They look at her passport again and spot the issue. Yiyi renewed her passport in the fall and her old passport number from previous travel was evidently stored in the airline's system from her previous travel. Their computer was saying her passport number didn't match. Once they entered the correct passport number with the ticket, they were able to print out her boarding passes.

The flight to Los Angeles is uneventful. In Los Angeles, we have 7 hours to kill before our 10:30 PM flight to Sydney. We sit and look at stuff on the internet. I also watch several episodes of Animal Planet's "Finding Bigfoot" show.

After boarding the flight to Sydney, they announce that it's a full flight, but the seat next to Yiyi remains open. We're sitting in the middle row of 3 seats together. As the door finally closes and we begin taxiing for take-off, we're excited that we have 3 seats.

As it's a 15 hour flight to Sydney, we have plenty of opportunity to sleep. Yiyi claims 2 seats for herself while I sleep in my seat. Several meals are served. We have beef stroganoff soon after departure and halfway during the flight we're given a small snack of a banana, an egg and cucumber biscuit and a cookie.