

April 2, 2013 (Cairns, Australia)

We're able to sleep in a little as the car rental isn't due until 10 AM and our flight doesn't depart until 11:35 AM. We eat for breakfast the food we bought from the grocery store yesterday.

We return the car at 9 AM. We've succeeded in having no dents or scrapes on the car despite having to drive on the left-hand side of the road.

Inside the domestic terminal, we're a little early before



JetStar

is checking in our flight to Cairns. We wait for 20 minutes and use the free airport wifi.

We check in and check our 2 bags. JetStar is a discount airline and when I bought the tickets, I paid a reduced price for 2 checked bags (\$20 each) and assigned seats (\$5 each). We go through security and wait at our gate.



The plane to Cairns boards on time. We have seats over the wing on the left side. The flight is no frills. The flight attendants come down the aisle with food and drinks. Everything is for sale. Not even a free cup of water. We don't need anything so we don't purchase anything.



In Cairns, we get our bags and get tickets on the shuttle bus to our hotel.

Yiyi has fears about the hotels I booked as she thinks I was more interested in price than quality. This hotel turns out to be a good one. Hides Hotel is right in the center of Cairns. It's an older building and we have a private room

with a sink, refrigerator and television. We share bathrooms that are just outside our door and very clean and modern. We put our bags down and decide to go walk around the city as Yiyi is very hungry.

We walk the 2 blocks to the waterfront where there's a large swimming pool where hundreds of people are swimming. The pool is free and part of a larger park.

Yiyi's hunger is greater than my desire to walk around. We find some Asian buffet counters in a small food court. I get some fish and chips while Yiyi fills a plate with the Chinese food, including seafood, from their buffet. We both find the



food subpar and likely cooked earlier in the day and just sitting warm for many hours.



Back outside, we walk along the waterfront. The tide is low and there's quite a lot of mud between the paved waterfront and the water. There are some birds walking around on the mud looking for things to eat.



Along the waterfront are several monuments.



There's a large one as a memorial to those from Cairns who fought in World War I. Nearby there's a small monument commemorating the start of the torch relay prior to the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne.

We walk through the streets at Cairns. It's mostly either stores selling tourist junk or travel



agencies wanting to book people on a local excursion. We have our excursions already booked for the next 2 days. We locate a

place that provides unsecured free wifi and take the opportunity to catch up on email.

After returning to the hotel for a small rest, we decide to go back out and look for supper. Neither of us is too hungry and after walking up and down many streets, we end up at McDonalds. Or decision is based on cost as we don't feel like spending \$30 on a meal when neither of us is very hungry. McDonalds costs around \$12.

We go back to the room and go to bed early as we'll be getting up early to go snorkeling.

