

April 7, 2013 (Flying Home)

We get up at 5 AM, which is actually an additional hour of sleep as Daylight Savings Time began during the night and clocks were set backwards by 1 hour.

As we get downstairs at 6 AM, the shuttle bus to the airport arrives. Wonderful timing! The ride to the airport is uneventful as he drops the domestic departures first then the few remaining international departures.

Inside the airport, we find our check-in booth, check in our 2 bags then go through security. Even for international flights, it's not required to take off your shoes in going through security.

Once through security, we go to the tax counter to file for a refund on the 9.9% tax on the jewelry Yiyi purchased in Kuranda.

We have about 2 hours until our flight begins boarding so we go to the Air New Zealand lounge of which our airline gave us a pass. Inside the lounge, there's a full hot breakfast for free plus free wifi. We eat our fill and just relax until it gets close to our flight boarding.

At 8:45 AM, our flight is about to board so we leave the lounge and go to our gate. We've timed it perfectly. We get our seats for our 9:55 AM flight.

This flight to Los Angeles is long. And because it departs in the morning, we're wide awake for the duration. I watch 3 movies. The first, "Hitchcock," tells the story of Alfred Hitchcock making the movie "Psycho." The second movie I watch is "Psycho." I've never watched it before. The third movie I watch is "Yes Man," one of Jim Carrey's movies and not one of his better ones.

In Los Angeles, we quickly get through security and have 6 hours to wait for our 12:25 PM flight home. I set my iPhone alarm clock to 11 AM so we don't accidentally sleep past our flight. Eventually we do succumb to sleep and my iPhone alarm clock does save us.

We're home by 2:30 PM, having left Sydney this morning at 9:55 AM. It only took 4 ½ hours. Oh, but there is that thing called the international dateline.