

October 28, 2012 (Flying Home)

I wake up 5 minutes before my alarm and move my bags into the hallway to get organized to walk down to the train station to catch the 4:10 AM bus to the airport. It's at this time the Australian guy who works at the hostel comes out of the office and tells me that I can sleep for another hour. Daylight Savings Time is ending overnight in Europe and at 4 AM, all clocks will be turned back to 3 AM. I'm sort of in disbelief and want to be sure he's 100% correct as I don't want to miss my flight over misinformation. I notice that the hourly weather report on the internet is showing expected temperatures and weather conditions for 3 AM which it sees as the future. Likewise the weather for St. Petersburg, of which Russia doesn't do Daylight Savings Time is showing 5 AM. I become convinced that he's right and I have another hour. But I'm already up and there's no use in going back to bed for what's now 40 more minutes of sleep.

I walk to the central bus area outside the main train station. At 3:30 AM, all the bars are closing and there are young drunk people everywhere stumbling around.

I arrive at the bus area and have no trouble finding where the airport bus picks up. The ride to the airport takes about a half hour and doesn't take a direct route. As the bus gets away from the city, I can see that there's a light dusting of snow on the ground.

At the airport, I check in for my flight and find the gate.

At Amsterdam, I have a tight schedule to change planes and as expected, my flight to Minneapolis departs from the other end of the airport. I must also go through European exit customs.

The remainder of the flights home are uneventful and on schedule, including my 4 hour layover at the Minneapolis airport.