

May 24, 2014 (Leaving Home)

We're fortunate to not have an early flight. We have time to take care of some last minute things regarding our garden and stop by my wife's parents' place to deliver some tomatoes from our garden and give them our bamboo plant to keep watered.

We arrive at the airport around 9:30 AM for our 12:10 AM flight. My philosophy is that being early helps remove some of the stress of traveling. Being early today was good because the line for check-in at US Airways is very long. And when we do get to the automatic kiosks to check in, we're directed to have to get in the line to have an agent check us in as the 2nd and 3rd legs of our trip are on IcelandicAir. By the time we've checked in and received our boarding passes for just the 1st leg of our trip, almost an hour has passed. Fortunately, going through security is very simple as we're not required to take off our shoes or remove anything from our carry-on bags. We only need to empty our pockets and walk through the metal detector.

With time to wait at the gate and the prospect of buying the high-priced low-quality food on the plane, I get a couple of slices of pizza at the New York Pizza Department. It's very good pizza.

The plane boards and departs on time. Knowing that we're going to need to find sleep as we'll lose 9 hours on the trip, we sleep during most of the flight to Minneapolis.

When arriving in Minneapolis, we have a 2 hour and 15 minute layover before catching our IcelandAir flight to Reykjavik. This sounds like plenty of time, but US Airways arrives in Terminal 1 and IcelandAir departs from Terminal 2. The traverse between terminals should be simpler than it is as it's not marked well. First we take a small tram to a station that connects with the Minneapolis light rail system. From there we take the light rail to Terminal 2. The transfer is free and probably takes 15 minutes. We're helped by a TSA employee who has us go with him as that's where he's going.

At Terminal 2, we must then get in line at the IcelandAir counter to get our boarding passes to Reykjavik and then for our 3rd flight on to Copenhagen. Getting our boarding passes is a little more time consuming than expected as the gate agent doesn't know how to enter our baggage tags into the IcelandAir system. She has to seek help from several other agents. Fortunately we were able to check our bags in Phoenix all the way to Copenhagen, but they say they need to enter them into the IcelandAir system to assure that the bags are connected to us and do get loaded on the plane. Eventually they get it in correctly.

We then go through airport security and see the guy who helped us get to Terminal 2. We have to take off our shoes here in Minneapolis.

We get back to the IcelandAir gate and have about 20 minutes before boarding. I am wise and ask if there will be a meal served on this 6-hour flight. I'm a bit surprised to be told that there will be food available for purchase. Rather than take



our chances on what that food will be, we walk down to the Subway in the terminal and get a couple of sandwiches. The girl at the cash register gives me \$14 in change when I was only to receive \$7 in change. I give her back the extra. I don't know what she was thinking as the receipt clearly showed I paid \$20.14 in cash for a \$13.14 meal. We take our sandwiches back to the gate to eat them and charge our phones.

Soon boarding begins. When we get on the plane, it's obviously why flying IcelandAir costs less than other airlines. The quality isn't much different than any domestic flight. Just a common plane with the 3-3 seating configuration with food for purchase. There is a free interactive video system for each seat for watching movies. But our time is best spent trying to get some sleep to make tomorrow more bearable.