

TIME BOMBS?

TICK TOCK TICK
TOCK GO THE TWO
CLOCKS



RUNNING OUT OF
TOILET PAPER?
THE TRIALS AND
TRIBULATIONS OF A
PLANE TRAVELLER



UNDOING YOUR BELT
X-RAY INVESTIGATION
CAUSES PANTS TO
FALL PRE FLIGHT



CHEAP AS CHIPS?
STILL GOTTA HAVE
MONEY!!

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Traveling

Home

International jet travel has its moments. Lots of them. Most revolve around having to endure long hours in a tiny space. There is finding the drop off point for the rental car when the GPS and smart phone throws its “literal hands” up in confusion. Only our visual override system saved us this time. “Look carefully for an Avis rental car drop-off sign!” Eventually you get to the location on the 2nd floor of the parking station — whoever decided that was the best place to put it? You allowed 30 minutes to park and walk to the terminal. It took an hour! At least we booked our seats online. Despite that we had an hour to wait in line to drop our bags off. Only small ones this time - easy, because no bikes.

There was some delay at customs where Heather’s bag was checked and rechecked. She has two ceramic clocks acquired in Florence. Looking for ticking

Pedestrian
escalators to
rapidly ferry you
from one area to
another are
excellent at making
you feel like
superman as you
walk past a mirror.

time-bombs maybe? The rigmarole one has to go through has increased in complexity over the years - you have to take off your belt, your watch, and isolate your phone, your computer, your wallet and bottles of fluid. You then run the gauntlet of the X-Ray machine and the drug swab. Finally you are through.

The next gauntlet is the duty free area. How many bottles of alcohol and perfume can one see? People must buy them I suppose? Then there is the food hall in case you don't get fed on the plane. All of it fattening, all of it hellishly expensive. And so you get to the boarding area (or pre boarding area in Dubai) and have to sit in metal upright seats before boarding. Our layover was only three hours this time – just enough, not too much.

And then you finally board the plane and are seated. How ridiculously small the economy seating is - and it seems to be getting smaller. It's been designed that way. It's been designed for thin people who never go to the toilet. Hundreds of passengers squeezed into a long tube with wings and a couple of huge jet engines roaring for hours upon hours!! If there are 350 people paying on average \$1200 for a one way ticket to Europe - that's \$420k!!! For one flight! Yes, I know, the fuel is "eating into their profits" these days.

The food is served on a clever little tray, comes around often and is seldom but an amazing array of odd things. One serving actually provided a nice little pasta dish – who would have guessed. I am sure I put on unwanted kilos after every flight!! There is no exercise possible so you wiggle your toes and stretch your arms. And going to the toilet is a nightmare. Locking yourself in to the smallest cubicle ever and expecting you to relax in your own little oasis while you hear the whistling of the air outside wondering if this thing fell out of the sky would anyone hear you screaming. Pushing the button to flush is the weirdest sensation. I always have this urge to not shut the toilet lid just to see what goes on down there. That sucking noise can be heard all over the plane. And where does it go? How can your wife remove her bra, unnoticed by me and hopefully, all others. Ahh, the skills of women!! And let's not forget the fancy new neck support thingy she bought herself – I want a new one next time.

Binge Watching

The maximum number of movies I have watched on one leg of a journey is 6. As you sit there you can see many other screens and wonder why people watch "Friends" or "Big Brother" or other rubbish when there are so many of latest release movies on offer. As if you can't watch "Friends" or other TV classics at home every day? I must lead a very mundane life. Heather tells me I "mustn't judge others". "Yes, mum". The latest innovation since our last flight, is the outside cameras that give a birds eye view of the space around the plane. I also find the constant updating of statistics of where we are, our flight plan, the countdown to arriving and other such mundane things quite interesting. Well, maybe I am easily pleased. How great it is to have opportunities and experiences such a long distance from home.

I will be so glad to get home. To sleep for a day. To luxuriate in cooler weather. To catch up with family and friends. And, of course to play a game or two walking football asap just to take off some fat from traveling overseas to play in the World Cup.

Airports are changing



Toilets telling you how many cubicles are available



Toilet basins with their own touch taps for water, soap and blow dry



Smoking rooms for smokers - efficient air extraction system

There are so many things to be aware of when flying. Passports and boarding passes are invariably asked for, as soon as one places them securely into your bag with the zip done up.

Boarding zones for your flight are invariably changed at the last minute causing increased stress despite you being on time.