

## Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Day 18<sup>th</sup>

04:00 a.m. – for the last time : „Rise and shine ! Today is our last day and the back flight is before us !”.

We got up, did our usual morning things, for the last time we took advantage of comfort of our downstairs apartment, then said our good bye to Sunka, Joey, Shoe and to the whole Newberry's home, loaded our baggage into the familiar red Toyota and hit with our friends our last 2007 U.S. drive ... to the Omaha Eppley Arfield Airport. We all were quite sad when we **shortly before 5 a.m.** reached that place. Nothing can be done ...



(<http://www.eppleyairfield.com>)

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First we all went to the Delta check-in counter. There was an older man, a worker, who was surprised by our flight tickets, he looked like he saw them for the first time in his life and was a bit confused. However finally (*we believed it at that moment*) he seemed to manage it and exchanged our flight coupons for boarding passes to Cincinnati and to New York. He also took our baggage to send it along with us.

Then we had a short break in an airport cafe. Our last American muffins, our last American coffee, the last common breakfast in the States ... and the last talk with our American friends face to face. We all tried to pose as cheerful people, but there we were, the sadness was almost tangible.

Ah, it was a difference from our parting in the Ruzyne Prague Airport last summer. At that time we all were quite happy because we knew, that we would see one another so soon, in the 2007 spring. But that day, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 we did not

know when we would be able to have our next common vacation again. Yes, of course we promised one another that it would be soon, as soon as it would be possible but there was not exact date arranged, only *„some time in the future’*.

Dan took the last pictures of us two and then we all hit our last common but very short walk down the airport corridor toward the customs. Zuzanka and Dan kept company with us as far as it was possible but then we had to said them our last good bye, we embraced and kissed them our goodbye.



Then we lost sight of our friends who disappeared in the



crowd. Our fantastic 2007 South Midwest U.S. Tour was over and there was just our back flight to the Czech Republic left.

We made pass through the customs without any problems and entered the terminal, where we browsed more than half an hour inside a duty-free zone shops. There we finally purchased wished-for T-shirts. They were really nice with the Omaha lettering and a corncob on it. Then we spent another while strolling around our gate (*I took pictures of our smallish plane*) and waiting for a departure.

**Shortly after 7 a.m.** we boarded a plane, took off and started

Delta Air Lines DL 4471		Wednesday, May 9, 2007
From	Omaha / Eppley Airfield (OMA), Omaha, Nebraska USA	7:10 AM
To	Cincinnati / Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky (CVG), Cincinnati, Ohio USA	9:58 AM

our back journey.

There was about an hour and half long flight (*615 miles*) to



Cincinnati, our first layover and change, ahead of us. The weather was wonderful, it was beautiful sunny morning. Ah, what a large flatland we could see from the plane ! How incredible large and a flat area Nebraska and Iowa are ! And squares and rectangles of farms all around down there ... Illinois was a bit hillier but only a bit. Then we continued across Indiana to Kentucky and about 9.45 a.m. local time (*one hour more than in Omaha*) we landed on the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (<http://www.cvgairport.com>). We managed to find our gate to New York without problems, spent there more than one hour, then we boarded the plane and took our another flight. That time we flew to New York. And another one hour and half was before us (590 miles). The flight passed off in peace and quiet, the weather kept being sunny.

On the JFK International Airport we landed slightly ahead of schedule at 12.40 a.m. so we had more than four hours of free time to our another, final flight over the ocean. We looked forward to having casual lunch, soft drinks and coffee and some shopping. We wanted to spend and enjoy our last moments in the States in a casual mood.

Delta Air Lines DL 5386		Wednesday, May 9, 2007																									
<b>From</b>	Cincinnati / Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky (CVG), Cincinnati, Ohio USA	10:45 AM																									
<b>To</b>	New York / John F Kennedy Int'l (JFK), New York, New York USA	12:50 PM																									
<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Status</b></td> <td>Confirmed</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><u>Monthly Averages</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Cabin</b></td> <td>Coach</td> <td>High: 70°F Low: 54°F</td> <td>Rainfall: 3.4"</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Aircraft</b></td> <td>Canadair Regional Jet</td> <td colspan="2"><b>Trip tools:</b> <a href="#">Subway map</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Flight duration</b></td> <td>2:05</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Mileage</b></td> <td>590 miles <a href="#">Disclaimer</a></td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Stop(s)</b></td> <td>0</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>				<b>Status</b>	Confirmed	<u>Monthly Averages</u>		<b>Cabin</b>	Coach	High: 70°F Low: 54°F	Rainfall: 3.4"	<b>Aircraft</b>	Canadair Regional Jet	<b>Trip tools:</b> <a href="#">Subway map</a>		<b>Flight duration</b>	2:05			<b>Mileage</b>	590 miles <a href="#">Disclaimer</a>			<b>Stop(s)</b>	0		
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But ... when we made a bit confusing wander about terminals (*we deplaned our aeroplane right on an airfield, then we entered the terminal 3 on the first floor, we were lost for a while in that ground labyrinth searching the right way, went up an escalator onto the second floor, took a suspension airport train that drove us to the terminal 4 and took another escalator*

*on the third floor*) and came to the Czech Airlines check in counter to exchange our last flight coupons for boarder tickets, the clerk found out that Hana missed the original of the flight coupon for the flight from New York to Prague. We went hot and cold all over ! The Delta clerk in Omaha made mistake and took that flight coupon instead of the coupon from Omaha to Cincinnati and none of us had not notice it ...

We tried to persuade the clerk that it was not our mistake and we showed him the copy of the New York-Prague flight coupon in Hana's flight ticket and also our reservation and the payment of our flight tickets but the clerk was unyielding and he insisted on a remedy from the Delta company and he sent us to the Delta office to gain the right boarder coupon for Hana for the oversea flight. We protested against it, we told that we had bought flight tickets and we had booked our seats in the plane and had paid for them and that coupon is only a formality, only a paper. It was no use. He did not care. Ah those officers and their bureaucratic procedures !

It should had been a casual time and nice farewell to the States but at that one moment it was changed into the nasty nightmare ! If you have ever been to the JFK International Airport you know how large airport it is ! You have to use an airport train to go from one gate to another gate and from one airline company to another airline company and it has several different stories ...

So it was not easy to get to the Delta check in counter at all. And when we finally reached it we were almost desperate. Our faces were white and our hearts were in our mouths.

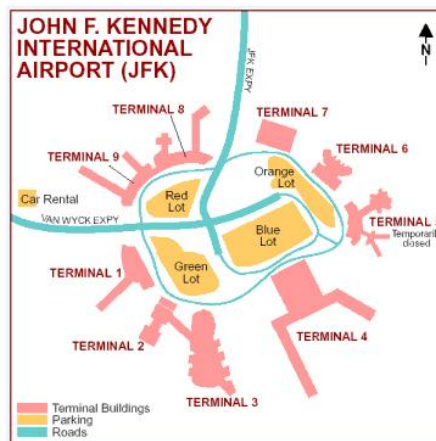


We felt so alone, so lost. So far from home in a foreign country. What a scary time ! ... Yes, we could almost see ourselves to live at the airport like Tom Hanks in the Terminal movie did, because of missing our flight home ... (*your words about my similarity to him almost came true* ☺).

Fortunately we were the two, fortunately we were able to speak in English and fortunately we could talk about our problem to one young Delta worker.

*„Please, excuse us but we need your help. We have a problem. My wife has missed her original coupon of our flight home to the Czech Republic, that is operated by Czech Airlines. A worker of Delta Airlines in Omaha made mistake and took the New York – Prague coupon away from her flight ticket instead of the Omaha – Cincinnati coupon and we did not notice it. Only when she wanted to exchange a coupon for boarding pass at a check in counter of the Czech Airlines here in the JFK International Airport, a clerk of Czech Airlines found she had missed the original coupon and he refused to give her a boarding pass to our flight and he said that it is an issue of Delta Airlines and he sent us over here to the Delta check in to deal with it. “, I poured our hassle out. The young man phoned somebody, told us that our thing was started to solve and then he was occupied with a problem of another traveler. We were calmed down a bit but after about an half hour I impatiently questioned him again : „Excuse us again, but what is new on our issue ?” ... „I told about your problem to my boss and he promised to sort it out.”, he answered. And really. In a moment came to us a high, good looking man dressed the Delta uniform. He was the crisis manager of Delta. We explained him again*

**(New York) John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK)**



**Location**

The airport is located 24km (15 miles) southeast of Manhattan

**Number of Terminals**

9 (Terminal 5 is temporarily closed)

**Transfer Between Terminals**

The AirTrain JFK provides a free service between all terminals (journey time: 8 minutes).

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<b>Czech Airlines CSA OK 51</b>		<b>Wednesday, May 9, 2007</b>	
<b>From</b>	<b>New York / John F Kennedy Intl (JFK), New York, New York USA</b>	<b>4:10 PM</b>	
<b>To</b>	<b>Prague / Ruzyně (PRG), Prague Czech Republic</b>	<b>6:20 AM</b>	
	Terminal: N1	<b>(Thursday)</b>	
<b>Status</b>	Confirmed	<b>Monthly Averages</b>	
<b>Cabin</b>	Coach	High: 63°F	Rainfall: 2.6 "
<b>Aircraft</b>	<a href="#">Airbus Industrie A310</a>	Low: 45°F	
<b>Flight duration</b>	8:10	<b>Currency</b> 1.0 USD = 20.907 CZK	
<b>Mileage</b>	4089 miles <a href="#">Disclaimer</a>	<b>Dialling codes:</b>	
<b>Stop(s)</b>	0	» From New York To Prague: 011 420	
<b>Meal</b>	Meal	» From Prague To New York: 00 1	
<b>Seat(s)</b>	<a href="#">12G - Non-smoking</a> <a href="#">12H - Non-smoking</a>	<b>Trip tools:</b> <a href="#">Subway map</a>	

our troubles and he began to deal with it. He told one woman to work on a solution of our situation and there were many her calls to everywhere. We spent a lot of time there. Yes, we were lucky we found somebody who was helping us but her calls seemed to be endless.

Ah ... and when we thought of the fact that all unpleasant situation

had happened only because of one small piece of paper ! Because of a small but fatal fault of that officer in the Omaha airport when he made his stupid mistake with our flight tickets. Yes, clerk does not care sometimes, it is only his job and he leaves problems behind on you ... it taught us to check everything and everywhere always in the future ...

And the time was running ...

In the meantime I had a talk to the manager (*I tried to keep him dealing our problem with until it was managed*) : „Mister, we are from the Czech Republic and we are going back home from the States where we spent a wonderful common vacation with our American friends. Really, it was going great until now but this bump on the road makes us unhappy.” He comforted us that everything would be all right and we could take it easy. I continued my talking : „We spent seventeen beautiful days with our friends traveling around the States. We have visited Florida Keys, Dry Tortugas, Panama City Beach, Naples, New Orleans, Saint Louis and Omaha. It was a marvelous experience.”, I raved about our free days in America. He listened attentively to me and then said : „I have never been to the places you have mentioned. I’ve been living mainly at the airports in New York or Los Angeles. I’ve still been busy. But ... I’ve been more times to the Czech Republic ! I’ve visited to Prague and Karlovy Vary. My wife’s parents came from Postupim in East Germany and their roots go to the Czech Republic ... ”. Wow ! What a small space our world can be ! Anyway ... talking to that nice man really helped us to feel better. We really needed it, we spent there more than one hour at Delta point ! Finally he gave us a broad smile and handed us the long-wished-for boarding ticket for Hana. We thanked him immensely and a lot and a lot. Yes, he was really the nice man. What a shame we forgot his name because of our stress.

And then ? We hurried back to our terminal 4, to our gate. The Czech Airline check in counter was already closed and we were the last passengers who boarded the plane

Czech Airlines  
OK 51



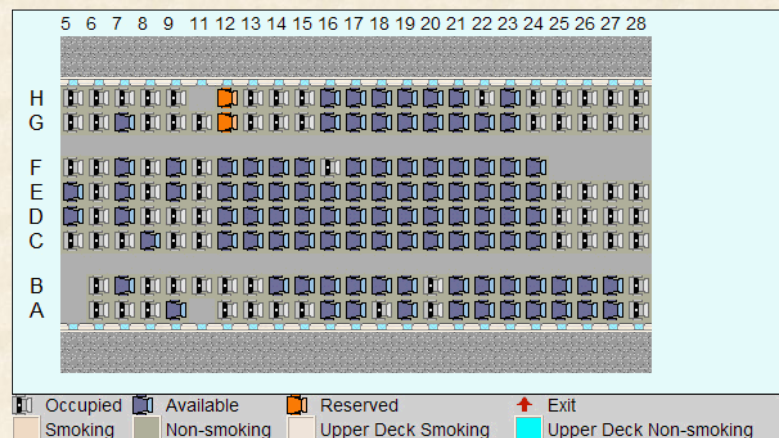
Aircraft:  
Airbus Industrie A310-200



From:  
edy Int'l (JFK), New York, New York USA

To:  
ie (PRG), Prague Czech Republic

Travel Date:  
9 MAY, 2007



toward Prague.

We were thirsty, hungry but so happy that we had managed it. We were on the plane home and we enjoyed that great feeling that everything ended well and we stood that shocking test. And all that nerve-racking event was slowly becoming only the horrible experience, part of our adventure. The story that would be told over and over again, and would not only enlighten our lives in the future, but our story might encourage someone else to double check all their tickets each time to ensure that they had what they needed.

Yes, Zuzanka’s favorite saying *'That which does not kill us, makes us stronger.'* goes perfectly for it.

Anyway ... eventually everything came out well, in twenty minutes we took off and could enjoy our flight home and our fresh memories of so wonderful vacation with our sweet American friends ...

Our back flight was fine, shortly after the takeoff they served the first refreshment, it meant meal, dessert, coffee and Czech beer ... and then we flew and flew and flew. About one hour before Prague we got breakfast and about **6.15 a.m.** Prague local time our plane touched down the Prague Airport runway. It was Thursday, May 10th when we returned to the Czech reality ...

Well. Our second fantastic American vacation was over. Another vacation of a dreamy and fairytale category. Now we have touched a Caribbean miracle, got to know of Florida beaches and taste a salinity of the Gulf of Mexico. We got to see alligators in Everglades, were given a lift by airboat through mangrove canyons. We became also for some days one part of New Orleans ambience even passengers on a ship of Ron Guidry. We have visited the amazing botanic garden in Saint Louis and got to see the Gateway Arch there. And in conclusion of our tour we spent almost four days in Zuzanka and Dan's homeland in Omaha where we lived with them through sweet even bitter events together and stayed in their cozy home.

The Omaha Henry's Doorly Zoo, the Old Market (*even with destroying Jackson Artworks gallery, ouch !*) and mainly so warm family meeting. We got to see Zuzanka's Dad Frank, Ginny with her daughter, all McDonalds and Joe.

Yes, it was like a dream but the dream that came true. And that all could happen just thanks to you, Zuzanka and Dan. Thanks to your scheduling, care, selflessness and hospitality which all you gave us as a matter of course, our sweet friends.

We thank you for good mood, friendly talking, experiences, joking and smiles, for all that casual vacation atmosphere. For all those more than 2,500 miles, spent safe and sound in your Toyota on the roads.

We never forget those April and May days off in 2007 in the United States of Amerika  
with both of you, our dears,  
**BIG THANKS TO YOU !!!**

And where will be our next common vacation ? Who knows ? Maybe in the States  
again !!!

