

Mission to Kiev, Ukraine

17th - 18th June 2015

AMSTERDAM, 16th of June

18 PM I receive the confirmation: I am going to Kiev!! An airplane part coming all the way from Miami needs to be delivered the next day.

AMSTERDAM, 17th of June

12:00 I receive the hotel and flight reservation. My flight is leaving at 20 PM from Schiphol and I am back next day at 22 PM, and my hotel is right in the main square of Kiev. Sounds like a good plan.

18:00 The box with the airplane parts arrives from Miami after 4 hours in customs. I do the check-in for the flight through the online app while going to the airport.



18:30 Running, I to go to customs at the airport to present the T1 document that allow my box to travel outside Europe.

Customs is in the same place as the tax free declaration. After explaining that I am an On Board Courier transporting airplane parts, presenting the bills, plane tickets and papers of the box, my parcel is OK for travelling.

18:45 At the security check I have to explain again why I am travelling with a box of electronic components. I show the papers and they ask to open the box to scan the pieces and afterwards very kindly they seal the box again.

19:00 First problem. Apparently my flight has been overbooked, and I am one of the two people who cannot board the plane. I explain to the Air hostess that I am an On Board Courier and that my delivery is very urgent, but the seat allocation is done electronically and only if another passenger is a no show or decides to kindly give up their seat, I can go.

19:15 It's official, I cannot take the plane. The next flight is at 9 AM next day but it is too late to deliver the piece, so after explaining the situation to the air hostess she finds a flight that leaves the same night to Kiev via Istanbul. I am going to have an amazing night in planes, but I would be able to deliver the piece only 8 hours late.

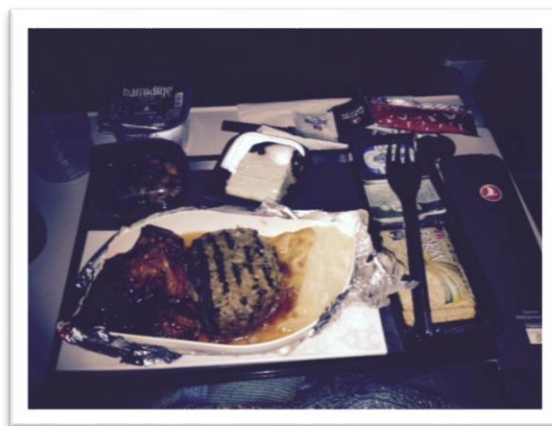
22:00 I go to the gate for my next flight with Turkish Airlines. As I am taking flights from two different companies they can only do the check in of the first plane, but fortunately Ukrainian airlines has online check in.

23:30 Second problem. Apparently the box is too big for the plane and they ask me to disassemble the box. I explain to them that I am transporting airplane parts and that if I take them out of the box full of protection they could be damaged. At the end they allow me to keep the box because the flight is half empty.

You are going to train your negotiation skills a lot if you have to be On board Courier, believe me.

18th of June

00:30 I eat what is probably the best meal I have ever had in a plane and I have all the row for me to sleep. Overbooking is not that bad sometimes.



Istanbul, Turkey

05:00 After two hours of sleep I finally land in Istanbul and pass the second security control. I have to show the papers again, open the box and after two minutes they let me go.



Kiev, UKRAINE

08:00 I finally arrive at Kiev. The logistics responsible of the company is waiting for me at the airport with a paper with my name. I make sure I have the proof of delivery

10:00 I MADE IT. Time to enjoy beautiful Kiev. It is my first time in Ukraine and is a really beautiful country.

Being an OBC it can be challenging, so make sure you enjoy some hours or a full day in the destination, the perk of being an OBC.

