

I got a six-er!

Tea Break Travels, No 4

This is one story from a collection of travel related stories called "Tea Break Travels". They are designed to be read in a short break from work or whatever, and cost around the same as biscuit! Some are true, some embellished, and some fictional. Some are from near 20 years of too much business travel, or our holidays, others are relayed from friends and acquaintances, yet others are just plain made up! This one is about a great new game to help those boring hours on planes. And it's FREE!!

Enjoy.

I got a six-er!

Yes, I'm claiming that on the BA flight back from Tenerife on Monday evening I got all six – a new personal best.

What's your best then?

Confused? Concerned?

Don't be, it a new game for all to play on flights where they have the moving map channel to show you where you are and the route taken. On many occasions I've found this to be the most entertaining channel on the flight, but now with the new, added challenge of this game it is definitely the only thing to watch.

So how do you play?

It's easy really. When there is a map displayed it will have some places marked by their name and a little dot. The number of places varies throughout the flight as different areas come into the scope of the map. The game is to count how many you've visited. If you've visited all of the places on any one map then you can claim that number as your personal best. Hence when up came Santa Cruz, Funchal, Marrakech. Agadir, Gibraltar and Lisbon, and no others I got a six-er! Just think if it only had chosen Casablanca as well I'd be on seven. Mind you some maps come up with over ten places marked so there is plenty more to come. Of course you can't count some of the other things that appear, like "Atlas Mountains" or "Atlantic Ocean", you can only count places marked with the little dot.

So next time you fly, see how many you can get. If you're in a group then have a little wager with your fellow travelers.

But what if nobody can get them all at any level? Well then you can go to the informal game – a bit like whist is to bridge. In the informal game it is just the highest number of

places on any map, even if there are others that you've never been to. Children's stuff really.

But what if two people manage the same score? Well then the next factor is the level of the map they scored on. If you watch it starts at a very high level, with about a quarter of the globe in view. This is the level that shows you where Fortaleza is when you're on the 200 mile hop from London to Paris - always full of relevant information these maps. It then cuts down the scope and shows a smaller area, repeating that around 4 times in total until you get a real local map. The score on the higher level map wins, because that shows you've traveled more of the globe. (Who said travel snob?)

And if they are still equal? Well the equivalent of the penalty shoot out is who did it first.

Different routes do offer different challenges. Being European, then flights across Europe tend to have many places I've been. Transatlantic flights usually feature Godthab, and I've never even met anybody whose been there, let alone gone there myself.

What do we mean by "Visited" though? Well you can't claim to have visited if you didn't even set foot on the ground there, like the plane landed for refueling and you stayed onboard. And even getting out of the plane and walking round the airport shops doesn't count either. No, to claim a visit you must have stayed at least one night there.

And you have to be honest! How could you live with yourself if you won by claiming places you've only seen on the internet or in a holiday brochure?

Though some people are playing at near professional standard already. They note down the places that appear on the maps and plan their next holiday there.

Where is that brochure for Godthab

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