

DAY 9 – Sydney



A short one today as most we did was travel from Fiji to Australia. Only a 4 hour flight, but once you factor in the check in and out time, immigration and customs that eats up half the day.

We did have once snafu, as we were checking in they said we did not have visas for Oz and therefore could not board the plane. WTF? No one told us US citizens needed visas for Australia, least of all our travel agent.

Anyways, seems like you can get them on line no problem for \$20, just another money making scheme I am sure by the Australian government. So we found an internet café at the airport and in less than 20 minutes had paid for our visas and

were now legal to enter Australia. Always something!! But was stressful for a bit.

After the flight we got our ride to the hotel, unpacked and went for a walk. Our goal was MEAT PIES!! You cannot get decent meat pies in the USA, uh... let me correct myself, you cannot get ANY meat pies in the USA and the last time we had a meat pie was in Canada I think, or the UK. Either way, Wendy also fell in love with meat pies and wants them as much as what I did. No problem we found our first meat pies less than 100 yards from our hotel!

So we pigged out, 2 meat pies each for lunch and again for dinner! AWESOME! We met the owner of the tour operator company we booked our tours through for a couple beers and walked down to see the Sydney Harbor Bridge and the Sydney Opera House, beautiful! Only 15 minute walk from our hotel.

I never realized for a second that right in front of the Sydney Opera house is what seemed to me to be the largest bar in the world!! All looking at the view and waiting for sunset. Amazing.



Sydney Harbor Bridge directly opposite the Opera House where we were having a beer with 10,000 other people.

First impressions are that Australia is EXPENSIVE. And this is probably due to the USD being devalued as right now 1 x US\$ pretty much equals 1 x AUS\$, but anyways, a beer in a hotel is \$7.50 and an average bottle of whiskey 750ml in a store is \$35 (normally \$10 in the USA)!. Parking for the day in Sydney is \$55. Here's the kicker, we saw a sign in the grocery store nearby – cigarette special only \$30 a pack of 20!!!! ARGH, I am currently paying \$2.60 a pack for my Russians ciggies. Hopefully we brought enough with us!!

I am coming down with a cold and the cheapest cold medicine was \$11.00. Sodas and juice appeared to be the same price as the USA.



Walking back to our hotel

Sydney has a nice vibe and you really do not feel like you are in a foreign country. People are friendly and other than driving on the other side of the road (like South Africa where I am from) it feels like any other waterfront city in the States. Very busy right now being in the middle of summer, tourists everywhere, bars are open and people are partying. We are happy to be in Sydney and have booked a big adventure tomorrow so lots more pics will be coming your way!