

9 I lived an extra day?

In 1989, I flew out of Perth, Western Australia bound for Sydney via Adelaide, and then onwards east to Auckland, Buenos Aires (skirting Antarctica), São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, Paris, Amsterdam, Kuala Lumpur and back again to Perth. Upon crossing the International Dateline mid-Pacific Ocean (between Auckland and Buenos Aires), I gained one day (clock was reset to the previous day). Now, because I have not backtracked to my point of origin but returned to it while continuing to travel eastwards, I never lost the day gained. This must have meant that I lived one day in my life twice. Interesting.



Clem's eastward circumnavigation

Going around the world is nothing special – even my cheeses have done it.

On 19 Aug 2018, I checked in at the KLM counter in Zurich to return to Miri via Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur. I was given the correct boarding passes at check-in but I was not aware that the DNATA check-in agent had labelled my single checked-in item (an unlocked zippered bag with a carton within) to go elsewhere *viz.* Zurich to Amsterdam to Mexico City to La Paz. I normally eye-ball the luggage tag as it is attached to my checked-in items but I was distracted this time in chatting with the check-in guy.

My checked-in item contained two cheeses bought in Amsterdam and two bought in Luzern. I realised that my cheeses were going to La Paz (Mexico) when I checked the luggage receipt at KUL prior to boarding my final leg flight to MYY. When I eventually arrived at MYY half-way around the world, I registered my checked-in item as lost luggage.



Clem's globetrotting European cheeses



Four and a half days later, my lost/delayed item was delivered to me. I discovered that my cheeses had accompanied me during ZRH to AMS but then went on to La Paz (the route can be traced via the luggage tag). It was routed back to me from La Paz to Mexico City to Tokyo to Kuala Lumpur to Miri. Thus, my cheeses had gone around the world independent of me and in an opposite direction of travel.

I have no idea how an error in luggage tagging could have occurred as the check-in computer system should

only generate tags which match the boarding passes issued. I can only think that it was a deliberate act on the part of the DNATA agent for unknown reasons (illicit trafficking perhaps of something to La Paz?). KLM was certainly disinterested in the matter after I had reported the incident.