

Happy Holidays with Flight Links

By Andrea Coppin

It was 3.27 in the morning, and even though it was summer, the glow of dawn was still an hour away, and all was dark. I vividly remember the exact time because I'd looked at the clock on the oven when the door bell had sounded. He was reassuringly three minutes early, and as I headed to open the front door, we both knew that our holiday had just begun.

Martin, our driver from Flight Links couldn't have been more helpful. Well turned out and courteous, he grabbed our cases that we'd put in the porch and placed them in the back of the vehicle; a spacious six-seater; immaculately clean, and, in contrast to the chill of the early morning was cosy and warm inside.

And that was it. We said farewell to Peter, our son who was staying at home, and who had promised faithfully that there would be no parties whilst we were gone. (How many of us have heard that one before?), and we were on our way. I momentarily remembered our awful journey to Gatwick a few years earlier, when we'd had to use a scrappy map provided by the holiday firm to find our off-site car park some ten miles from the airport. The map was so useless that we only just found it in the nick of time. Talk about stress!

By contrast, we knew that we were in the hands of a professional, and as we motored up the A1 heading for Manchester Airport, we were able to revel in the excitement of the holiday to come. In fact ever since we'd called Robin, the company's owner, we'd felt that sense of assurance and security; qualities that he looks for in all of his drivers too.

The drive there was as smooth as could be as the SatNav steered us through The Woodhead Pass. Plenty of time had been made for the journey, so there was no need to race. Martin behaved like our very own chauffeur and was really good company, right up to the check-in desks where we said our goodbyes. Now that's the way to do it.

Flight Links are past masters at long-distance journeys and have created a great reputation over the past seven years for getting their passengers to airports, seaports and railway stations but just as importantly, picking them up when their trip is over. For us, coming back from Fuerteventura, the flight's delay had caused Martin no problems at all. He'd been up at the crack of dawn checking the airport arrivals information on his laptop and therefore knew we were running two hours late. There was no extra charge for this either. The minute we emerged into the arrival's area, we saw him waiting there to whisk us home. Our holiday ended just as calmly as it had begun. Amazingly, they do this sort of thing 24/7/365.

Our decision to call Flight Links was made after chatting to close friends who had travelled with them a number of times. We then took a look at their web site to learn a bit about them before we made the call. We discovered that all of their drivers are licensed by Lincolnshire County Council and have to pass an advanced level Criminal Records Bureau check before being accepted. On top of that they have to pass a strict medical examination and, for two years or

more be the proud owner of a full UK driver's licence. Their vehicles too are kept in tip top mechanical shape and are spotless inside. They even have bottled water and sweets on board, something we found useful on our trip home. Their largest vehicle is an eight seater, ideal for taking groups to all kinds of locations. But there are different sized vehicles for varying requirements. For families they carry booster and baby seats, but they are just as able to take couples off to romantic hideaway hotels too; something to think about as Valentine's Day approaches (hint, hint). All vehicles come with dual zone climate control, air conditioning and full sized seats for sheer comfort.

We chose to pay Flight Links by cheque on each journey, but it would have been just as easy to do it by any of the major debit or credit cards* As far as value for money was concerned, we actually weighed up the cost of our own fuel, wear and tear and the ten days of parking and found that it was better to let Flight Links take the strain, they were that competitive. For corporate customers, they can even open up a monthly account, making business travel a doddle too.

To tell the truth, nothing seemed too much trouble for them. No matter what kind of a trip we might have had in mind, or who might have needed to be picked up on the way, we felt sure that they would have accommodated us. It was our needs that mattered from the moment we spoke to them, and the service we received was more than we could have hoped for.

Looking at the places they travel too, we could see that they had all bases covered for any of our future holidays; Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports as well as Luton, Birmingham, Manchester (where we went from), East Midlands, Leeds/Bradford, Humberside and the newly named Robin Hood airport near Doncaster. They even take passengers to the sea ports of Southampton, Harwich and Portsmouth and regularly convey people to Newark railway station.

You work hard all year for your time on holiday; a time away from cares and strain. By starting and ending it with Flight Links your holiday can start the moment you hear the door bell ring, just as we did. For stress free trips to and from the airport, just give Robin a call, and let him and his drivers look after you too. Happy Holidays!

Flight Links

Tel: 01522 878 670 Mobile: 07983 358 408

E-Mail: flight.links@ntlworld.com

Web Site: www.flightlinks.net

