

Russia

October 2017

This traveling experience is the most memorable because it was when I met my husband. Everything started with the drama of getting a Russian visa. The day before my departure to Russia I still didn't get my passport back from the embassy in Tokyo.

I was scared and hopeless. Suddenly, I got a call from the delivery company that my passport had arrived at the post office. I immediately took a bus and arrived 10 minutes before the post office closed! If I reached 10 minutes late, I wouldn't be able to fly to Russia the next day!



I was flying from Fukuoka to Hong Kong and then to Russia. It was a long journey indeed. Before going to Moscow, I had one day of transit in Hong Kong, so I decided to go outside the airport. I accidentally met an American traveler who was also having a long stopover. So, we ended up going downtown together. We tried to find a place to sleep for a night.

I was a bit surprised by the price in Hong Kong. Hotels were extremely expensive, I knew that properties were so pricey in Hong Kong but we were able to get a cheap one on the internet. When we arrived at the hotel, they showed me the room, I was surprised! It looked completely different from the photos on the internet! The room was very small and the door couldn't even open properly. The air was stuffy and I couldn't even move too much in the room because it was so cramped. I was so disappointed.

The disappointment experienced I had in Hong Kong continued throughout ~~during~~ the whole journey even after I arrived in Russia. While in Sochi, I took a bus from the hotel to the conference hall where the event was held, but the bus drove me to the wrong place! I was scared because I wasn't familiar with the city. There was a man sitting behind me. I wasn't sure if he could speak English, but I had no other option than to ask him.



"Excuse me, do you speak English? I think I need help because it isn't the place where I am supposed to go."

The man replied "Of course, I can. I also got lost, are you also attending the international event?"

"Yes, I am. My name is Erica from Indonesia." We shook hands.

"I'm Petr from the Czech Republic."

I was a little bit embarrassed because it was my first time meeting someone from the Czech Republic and I didn't know where the country is.

We walked together along the Black sea to reach the conference. He told me a lot about his country. It was a good thing that I could learn something new.

If I didn't arrived in Russia and get lost, I wouldn't have met Petr, my husband now!

It wasn't a bad experienced after all (smile)!