

Judith Heslop's CityJet flight Sunday 1st August.

WOWEE! I won the 2 return tickets from Brive airport to London City Airport. Thank goodness I clicked onto the CityJet website back in May and registered my email address when the tickets were offered to house owners at SGCC.

I returned to France Sunday 1st August using my first free ticket. Quite an adventure as my husband was already in France and it was a long journey for me travelling by public transport: Goathland to York by bus, train to Kings Cross then tube and DLR to City Airport. I made it with 23 kilos in my suitcase—the allowance for check in luggage, a small bag and my handbag. Arriving at the Airport Station I was relieved to find a lift down into terminal and see the check-in desk ahead.

I felt quite relaxed on arriving - no rush, it was gentle and civilized not chaotic like most UK airports. With my printed booking confirmation I was soon checking in (no worries about being charged 40 euro because I had no printed boarding card). Luggage checked in and boarding pass in hand I was off to buy the Sunday newspapers (to keep my husband happy for a couple of days) and enjoy a cup of coffee and a sandwich.

Next Security—they were very helpful and very thorough—it was good to be travelling with a handbag not stuffed into a travel bag. You are allowed 12 kilos on the plane with you. In my small bag I had my computer, phone, newspapers and a few bits and bobs which I could easily transfer to the tray provided without having to rummage in a suitcase. London City airport is comfortable with good facilities—plenty of refreshments available, duty free and some expensive goods.

We boarded at 16.05 for 16.20 flight – we actually took off at 16.50. A very nice warm welcome from the Captain in English and French—a quick take off (must be due to a short runway). The cabin crew were very good, friendly, pleasant and attentive. Once in the air we were offered drinks and sandwiches—at that time of day a glass of wine was much appreciated. The flight was full bar 5 or 6 seats. I was very pleased to see this as we have waited a long time for this airport. Majority were Brits with a few French— all age groups and lots of families. Many people travelling alone which is a good sign that regulars will be travelling backwards and forwards..

The flight arrived ¾ hour late at Brive. After problems with the landing, we finally made it on the third attempt to cheers and lots of clapping from the passengers. The luggage was soon on the carousel and I was rushed away by my friends who had been waiting over an hour with a big crowd. So I had no time to explore but will do that when I go back to the UK at the end of the month.

My husband has decided to come back with me using the other ticket—I had no problem changing my booking—no charges , fees etc. and a new confirmation in minutes---I just wish they were flying to the north of the UK. Hopefully next year—then I *will* say WOWEE!