

11 July Model Railway tour

It's my last day in America. Well had a good night sleep and prepped the bags for transit. Then after a shower left the room and headed to the lobby for breakfast. After breakfast the hotel took my luggage and called the limo driver who had taken me to the Amtrak station a fortnight ago. But he was on another job so I said I'd be happy to wait, I had all day as the flight left 11:30pm, and had to be there at 9pm - I had ALL DAY to spend.

Well a car turned up and it wasn't him, he was delayed and got his partner to fill in, partner in terms of business or social I do not know, but I was then driven around the area by a lady in a black Lincoln town car. The car was hot but I felt as if in QLD so all was ok there.

I planned a series of hobby shops to go to. I had more than I could get on the list, so picked the ones I wanted to go to. The first shop was big for a train only store I thought but had limited Plastic steam and diesel, lots of brass models. The second one was similar but talking to the guy behind the counter he confirmed a lot of stuff is special order and direct, the hobby shops miss out, as they do in Australia. Interesting to see the same trends as in Australia.

All trips were by freeway, long glaring concrete laneways. Traffic look near peak, but were told this was light.... Well the third shop was of similar size to the others but had more loco I were interested in. So I have bought two diesel and steamer, plus a O scale truck for a Puffing Billy layout, and a NCE throttle used to control my trains.

That took some time and that ended the hobby tour. I took some items with me and arranged for the shop to mail the rest. The trip back to the hotel was ok and I were back to collect my luggage and then board the shuttlebus to the airport.

Well about a 3:40pm arrival at the airport, Think I could be early !!!!! Well checked in the main case and went off to have a lunch, and early dinner. That took about 90 minutes off the long wait. Then into security where one had to remove the belt and shoes. Again plenty of time to do this. Then the walk to the departure gate where I'm now typing this at 7:20pm, only 3 hours before boarding !

So this probably is the last time I write before returning to Australia. Doubt I will get the Laptop out during the flight, reading and watching the entertainment screen is best, and a doze or 7 :)

