

## Ice in the Volcano - It is getting colder here...

Still stuck in Cape Town, it is getting colder here. Also, I now have 3 different plans to travel home. And although normally I enjoy being abroad quite a lot, in this situation going home is indeed tempting. As some planes towards Europe are flying again, I hope to be back soon. And oh boy, are these soccer fans arriving in June and July for the World Championships in for a surprise here in Cape Town - this is such an interesting place, but it will be winter by then...

Uwe Krause, Sander van Vugt and I are still stuck in Cape Town (ZA), you can read more about the reasons for this at this page - it is because of that volcano on Iceland disrupting travel all over Europe and the rest of the world. Since Sunday we have been developing several plans to go back again, as Uwe was the first to miss his flight to Germany last Friday.

Actually, Sander is scheduled to fly tonight on his regular direct flight to Amsterdam (NL) and I think his chances are like 80-90% that this will work out just fine. And Uwe is supposed to be on a flight this morning from Cape Town to Johannesburg, to take the direct flight from there to Germany - lets keep our fingers crossed.

Meanwhile several people have responded to my earlier postings and mentioned that being stuck at the south point of Africa does not seem bad - nice warm weather, wines from the vineyards and so on. And yes, Cape Town is a very nice place to be stuck, I must admit - but the plans for this week were just regular work at the office and not doing sightseeing here, so here I am in my hotel room doing just that - work. And also, outside it is getting colder and we had a few rain showers here last few days - remember this is Autumn in Africa and you can see that in the weather patterns.

Ooh boy, are these soccer fans in for a surprise when they arrive in June/July for the World Championships, expecting warm weather and sunshine - not sure if they realize that by that time it is "mid winter" in this area. You need a bit more than just a t-shirt to withstand the strong winds and the rain showers.

Anyway, I now have three plans to go home:

- I'm on the waiting list for the direct flight from Cape Town to Amsterdam leaving at midnight - chances are small I will make it, like below 5, but it is worth a try anyway.

- Plan B. is to fly tomorrow from Cape Town to Dubai and then onwards to Athens, arriving there on Friday - tickets are booked for this, so the chances are like 95% to arrive there.

- Plan C1 is a direct flight from Athens to Amsterdam on Friday, however there is uncertainty about the status of these European flights on Friday. Anyway, ticket is booked, arrival would be Friday evening.

- Plan C2 is a flight from Athens to Rome on Friday, followed by the nighttrain from Rome to Milano. After arrival on Saturday then onwards to Basel and Brussels, arriving at home on Saturday late in the evening. Anyway, this has been an interesting experience, lets see if we get home soon now.