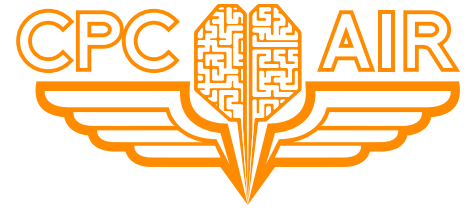


# ALMOST AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHT HOPS



By: Rohit Harilal

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At the outset, a bit of background. I have some specific preferences when it comes to air travel. For instance, when I travel from Atlanta International Airport, I invariably travel with Delta. Similar is the case when I travel out of Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport when I always travel United or when I travel from Charlotte Douglas International Airport when I always book U.S. Airways and so on. This is not an exhaustive list, this is just an indication of my travel patterns.

Once I decided to take a world trip. A unique trip at that.

I started my journey from the world's warmest welcome.

My second leg was with the spirit of Australia.

From there, I discovered a great way to fly.

In my journey to my next stop, I found out the joy of flying.

Then I flew with the world's favorite airline.

En route to my next destination, I found that there was no better way to fly.

For my penultimate leg, I went with those who were making the sky the best place on Earth.

My final leg was ready when you are. And my journey culminated where they had a whole different animal.

For my sojourn, I decided that I'll take the flight with the lowest number on each leg for the carrier I plan. What do I get if I add up all my flight numbers for my world trip?