

Other Areas of Practice

It's a real nowhere plan | Marcel Strigberger

By **Marcel Strigberger**



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(September 25, 2020, 2:39 PM EDT) -- Speaking of loonies, Australian airline Qantas is scheduling a seven-hour flight to "Nowhere." The flight, originating and ending in Sydney, will actually hover around Australia and surprisingly, or not, all 134 tickets ranging from about \$750 to \$3,700 translated into Canadian loonies were snapped up in 10 minutes,

I Googled "Nowhere," and it showed 104,000,000 results. No, we will not go through all of them today. The dictionary definition is, "not anywhere." That's helpful. At least Qantas knows where it is.

I can see both pluses and minuses on this type of flight.

Firstly, there should not be any lost luggage claims. Then again, I can see some clown make a claim and when asked to describe the bag, he would e-mail Qantas a blank photo.

Security would be interesting. I would suggest more rigorous pre-boarding questioning. After all we have a strange group of 134 folks who are spending hundreds of dollars during a pandemic, for a sellout crowded airplane trip with an ETA of never.

I also think of that legal issue of a lady giving birth on the flight. Is the baby a citizen of Nowhere?

A couple of other Asian airlines, EVA and ANA, have followed suit with similar ventures. I also Googled these trips but was unable to find images of Nowhere, no way.

Singapore Airlines is also considering jumping into the market to Nowhere. I'm sure all laws and rules will have to be observed including use of sanitizers, masks and no chewing gum. Then again maybe offending passengers can argue chewing gum is not allowed in Singapore but OK elsewhere, like Nowhere.

Getting back to the ranch, or rather the outback, Australia is kick ass about not bringing produce in from anywhere. You try to sneak in an apple and the beagles at the airport find it in seconds. Are they going to train these hounds now to be on the lookout for the produce delicacies indigenous to Nowhere? It may be challenging indeed to train them to sniff for nothing.

I actually was once a proud beagle owner and I'll say these dogs are highly intelligent with an incredible sense of smell. I see no problem educating the hound to sit in front of an offending passenger from Nowhere, and nod his head side to side, signifying he imported nothing from Nowhere. A fair penalty would be a fine, of nil dollars. Thirty days to pay and in default, no time in jail, anywhere.

Another positive is most likely the COVID-19 count at destination is likely low. Google actually could not give me a tally for the number of active cases in Nowhere but it's probably even less than Prince Edward Island.

And speaking of the maritimes, coming to mind are those instances, where some overseas passengers heading to Sydney, Australia ended up instead in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Given the madness of the times, what if they now end up in Sydney North, Dakota? I suppose this is even more unlikely, but then again so was the idea of a mid-pandemic flight to Nowhere.

But however unlikely, were this somehow to happen here, it might lead to an interesting legal action. If it does, the airline might have a good defence to such an action, pleading that it fulfilled its part of the bargain, by dropping of the passengers in the middle of Nowhere.

Marcel Strigberger retired from his Greater Toronto Area litigation practice and continues the more serious business of humorous author and speaker. Visit www.marcelshumour.com. Follow him @MarcelSHumour.

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