

Ateej Al Souf-The Old Wool

Although I talk so affectionately about Paris, people ask why I haven't visited in years and why I prefer traveling to other cities. Of course the answer is easy! There is no direct flight from Kuwait to Paris, so it's difficult to have short and fast visits. Not only did Air France stop its route to Kuwait, the Kuwait Airways flights to Paris were always through Rome and Geneva; and I wouldn't like to comment of the aircraft. Of course, that was in the past and the situation now has totally changed. When I returned from Tunisia, I decided to travel on Kuwait Airways after a long hiatus, especially with its new non-stop flights to Paris. Let me tell you about it.

The check-in staff were doing a good job, at least with me, but with another first-class passenger they only went so far. Apparently one of her bags exceeded the weight limit, so she had to open her bag and move some of her belongings to the other one. Then they re-weighed, and it seemed that bag was even heavier, so they insisted that she had to open the bag again. She removed a hair dryer and a couple of shirts and tucked them into another bag. This continued until all her bags were within the limit. Of course, that's the policy, and every traveler has to abide by the regulations, but it seemed they were being a little too strict in this case. Honestly speaking, I was impressed by the young Kuwaiti. She didn't get angry, and respectfully obeyed the rules, so big thanks to her for her sporting spirit. The aircraft, neat and clean, took off on time. The service and food were more than excellent. As for the seats though, they might be acceptable for business-class, but not for the first-class.

As the proverb says, however, "old wool is better than new silk." This was true for the head of the flight crew. He was a very nice man, going throughout the cabin and personally welcoming each of us on board. I asked him: "It seems you have