I took a similar flight on China Southern over the summer, Guangzhou to Shanghai Hongqiao. This time I tried one of their competitors, China Eastern. I say competitors because China Southern is no longer part of Skyteam.

Amazingly, China Eastern is still in Terminal 1, despite being a Skyteam member. I guess there is really no simple algorithm when it comes to things like these here in Guangzhou. I checked in as usual, went past the construction hallways (the bridge to the boarding areas), cleared security, and brought the cheapest bottle of water that I’ve ever seen, so cheap that I brought two! Just to show them support.

Boarding was on-time, and I don’t understand why people place gates *for big planes* at the end of the terminal when considering that they are usually really cramped areas. I can see how you get more space, but I don’t understand if that is supposed to trump the passenger experience, because that is totally not how it works! But what do you know, this is my second time. Consecutive. That I’ve been given one of these gates. At the end of the terminal. Different buildings. In Guangzhou. And I’ll expect a third, maybe yes, hopefully not, better not??? But I should be appreciative that we got a *jet bridge* at all. Which I was fine with.

The experience I had on the inbound (MU5311) and the longer flight in the summer (MU5181, Beijing to Guangzhou) was similar to the one I had today in terms of #PaxEx. I looked online and did not find anything about it, but I do recall that things were enhanced because the first time I flew a China Eastern A330, it had no IFE, and this was back in August 2017. I peeked into Business/First/whatever and they seem to be Thompson VantageXL seats. This was definitely not the case back in 2017. I have a picture that I’ll post to compare the economy seats. I’m going to guess these newer ones are Safran/Zodiac Z300 seats. These pictures are from the inbound, MU5311, since there were so many people when I boarded that I could not get good pictures, but these are the same seats.

Definitely a high point. This time, I could enjoy it more given it’s daytime, except that it’s less than two hours long.

A meal was served too. It’s single option, so either you like it or you don’t. My stance is to just be appreciative of what you got.