With the threat of a typhoon the day before I was due to depart, I cancelled my ferry booking and paid a 30 RMB penalty fee from the refund.

Now that leaves me with two options: go to my favorite hotel or stay near the airport. Of course, that means I will have to wake up early and go to the airport on the Airport Express. I can still eat breakfast at the hotel. It’s on the lower end, but I absolutely love the breakfast selection.

Unfortunately, most of the hotel employees I know are not there. Originally, the reason why I wanted to go there in the first place is to meet with some people. Of course, now that a lot of people have cancelled bookings, most of the employees are encouraged to take the time off and enjoy the summer.

I decided to stay near the airport just so I can try the hotel there. I timed everything so I can take a private car and get into Hong Kong by 3:00. I also decided to meet some friends in Shenzhen and sit down for a meal. In the end, I called a Didi taxi at abut 11:30 and got into Shenzhen at 12:30, in time for the meal.

The two hotels that popped up in my mind was Regal Airport hotel and Skycity Marriott. I’ve stayed at the latter before. With the airport restriction in place, I did not plan on eating at the airport, and I could earn some points at Marriott. Except I didn’t go that route.

I love watching planes at Hong Kong. I’ve talked about it before. There’s a lot of widebodies and interesting aircraft there. Staying at Regal at least could guarantee me airport views.

So I purchased that fare when I booked. Prices were cheaper, too. With the current events, there was no point in overcharging like they would on a normal day. For less than 1,000 HKD, I would access a double bed room, with free Wi-Fi for four devices. This was booked a few days before I stayed… I believe last-minute fares are more expensive.

Previously, anyone leaving the Mainland from Shenzhen Bay Port does not necessarily need to get off the private cars. At least, not the last time I went through here, which would be late December 2017. There were three automatic gates for E-channel users. Then there were two manual check lines for me. There was no line (I wonder why) and I was through within seconds.

I got there and entered through the front entrance. It took an elevator ride to access the check – in desk at level 2. Go figure it’s the level that’s linked to the airport. No surprise as a lot of guests staying at the hotel enters and exits through the terminal… me excepted for the entering part.

Check – in was easy. I asked for a runway view at a high floor. It was granted (possibly because they didn’t see any point in charging me extra to move me).

The 9th floor on the north wing was not accessible by elevator, so after arriving at the 8th floor, I had to change to an escalator that was running fast at all times (such a waste of energy, especially when there are very few guests). There were also conference/exhibition halls, probably because of the close proximity to the airport and Asia World Expo.

Of course, I came for the planes. The escalator areas were nice to watch planes (and my plane for the flight landing).

The room was ice cold when I entered. Literally. I was not surprised, but I did take the time to turn the air conditioning to the highest setting (28 degrees). It’s my idea to keep it cold when I’m out of the room, with the A/C on full blast, but once I come back, I turn it off to the minimum. Probably because I’m used to the tropical weather.

There were two beds, a TV, a desk, and a central control area. Chargers were available, more than enough for me to charge my camera batteries and my phones… because I had an adaptor. There were three in the room. I used the plug to 4-USB port adaptor that I always carry just out of habit.

I love how the shampoos are still in small, plastic bottles, not the big junk. I hate how many hotels switch “in the name of the environment” because the switch isn’t so smooth. But yeah, it’s very nice. And I used them well.

No moisturizer, but I had the one I saved from earlier in my travel.

It also looked like there was a pool, but I did not confirm this. Given the lounge chairs around the pool, I would assume the pool was for swimming.

I spent at least two hours watching planes land, and then I decided to go downstairs and check out the dinner options. What the staff told me was that anyone with the Regal Airport Hotel card and folder can enter the terminal, even without a ticket.

Given the current situation and over 1,200 flights cancelled over a two-day period, no one without a ticketed flight within 24 hours and travel documents may enter the airport. At least half the entrances are blocked because of this arrangement. This arrangement obviously stands out when you can see very few people and hear the escalator clicking sounds *from the entrance*. Or when you look and see the Airport Express has no one in it. I guess no one should be surprised to see Airport Express ridership has dropped and headway times have increased by at least five minutes.

Dinner will be in the terminal tonight for me. I found a very decent Cantonese food restaurant just prior to Security, and I had a traditional Cantonese dinner there. It was very decent. The restaurant’s name is Tsui Wah Restaurant. It is located one level above the departures floor, accessible only by going through the check-in area.

After eating there, I had an Ice Cream at nearby McDonalds.

Finally, I recharged my Octopus card and returned to the hotel.

By then, it was already dark and it was time for sleep.

In the morning, I checked – in my bags for the flight, then had Ramen for breakfast. It was very delicious, and the restaurant name is Tonkotsu 8, on the arrivals level.

Overall, this hotel is very nice for an overnight layover, a night before a morning flight, or a day of rest before a night flight out. Access to the city is also very nice, with your choice of buses, trains, or taxis. Given the unrest, it’s most likely none of the above will operate normally (the Airport Express train has reduced service quite a bit as far as I’m aware), but on a normal day, access is a wonder.

This hotel is rated as the 6th best Airport Hotel in the world by Skytrax, and World’s Best in the same category by Business Magazine, and it showed, even with the lack of guests and the current situation.

One thing I could improve, if I were to nitpick, is the power outlets. I know that it’s Hong Kong and they have a special type of plug, but not everyone has the adaptor. If the hotel purchased some adaptors and chucked one per room (and yes, the hotel could make money to lend these adaptors. Well, what else can you do?), it would be appreciated.