

ROUTE CHECK

A NEW PARA

Flying the south-only 'business' airline

HOW WAS THE CHECK-IN?

A breeze, I'm happy to report. A hefty looking fellow came and took my bags as I alighted from my cab and, since he was considerably larger than me, I didn't utter a word of protest. He smiled a lot, so that was a plus, and he put my check-in bag through the x-ray machine. The lady at the counter also smiled endlessly and seemed almost pathologically cheerful, but hey, who's complaining?

★★★★☆

WAS IT A COMFORTABLE FLIGHT?

Very. One reason was because it was only just over an hour long, but that period was spent in a comfy manner. The aircraft looked and smelt pretty new, the seats were leather bound and I felt like I was on a private

business jet rather than on a commercial airliner. No entertainment system ala a certain bird that catches fish, but on such a short flight it didn't really matter. In any case, aren't these things more by way of gimmicks than anything else?

★★★★☆

DID THEY SERVE YOU WELL?

Friendly, efficient crew and a hot, tasty meal with the full cutlery shebang - if you want much more out of a one-hour flight, you're one demanding punter.

★★★★★

HOW WAS THE FLYING EXPERIENCE?

I spent most of the flight poring through their inflight magazine, which, although fairly well produced, is nowhere near Jet's field leader. The seat really was extremely comfortable and I almost succumbed to sleep a couple of times, only fighting back the urge in that embarrassed manner that people have on any form of public transport. I also broke in my newly acquired portable movie player, tilting the screen so that everyone could see how cool I was.

★★★★☆

LUGGAGE FLEW WITH YOU?

It did, yes.

★★★★★

OVERALL?

Perhaps such a short flight isn't a true indicator of an airline's mettle, but I certainly don't have a single complaint. Everything was top-notch, from the check-in process, to the aircraft, to the food and service and to the take-off and landing. It would probably not be an exaggeration to say that Paramount is, along with the colourful bird, the best airline in the country today.

★★★★★



Photo: Paramount Airways

The ERJ170 aircraft that Paramount flies do not have over-wing exits. Embraer has designed the aircraft without over-wing exits so that airlines who buy the aircraft can configure them in single or dual class seating arrangements, just the way Paramount has