



The Pop Culture Travel Guide

JetBlue's T5 At JFK Survives Its First Brush With Winter Weather

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While Ellen Wernecke was dealing with [the five stages of flight delays](#) at LGA recently, our occasional correspondent [JetSetCD](#) was enjoying the new T5 at JFK, built by [an airline that knows something about awful winter weather](#).

As New York City buttoned up on Friday for its first snowstorm of the season, I headed straight into the belly of the beast. Although I've been to [JetBlue's new Terminal 5 at JFK](#) twice before on trial runs, I'd yet to actually fly out of it under full operation. With



strong winds and heavy snow forecast for the day, I decided to forget about the possibility of delay for my flight and instead focus on watching the new, innovative terminal stretch its legs.

Despite the flood of New Yorkers headed out of town on the Friday before Christmas, the wait at security was non-existent and I quickly found myself snuggling in with the WiFi warriors in the food court. When JetBlue described this concourse as inspired by Union Square in New York, they must've meant something more like Whole Foods; there is a deli-style buffet with an abundance of fresh salad choices, barrels of bags of apple chips versus potato chips, fresh fruit to

cure your travel scurvy and the **best looking donuts** I've ever sunk my teeth into. (The perfect frosting alone was award-winning food porn.)



As the late morning shifted into early afternoon and the driving snow accumulated on the runways, the departures board turned rainbow with delayed and canceled flights. As my shuttle to Chicago suffered only a 45-minute wait, I had a little leisure to check up on

other less fortunate flights to places like Buffalo and Rochester. Now I understand the reason for the multiple customer service desks throughout the terminal; guests on canceled flights didn't even have to backtrack as far as the food court in order to rebook or get info on their route. This made for some quiet times in the terminal even though I could totally imagine LaGuardia freaking out on the other side of Queens.



Parents with young children headed to the play areas, business travelers and those about to face their family for the holidays filled the wine bars and us always wired fliers cozied up to the touchscreen ordering stations for some healthy Twittering and tuna sandwiches. **Nowhere did I witness people passed out on the floor or across chairs, and no one had to resort to sitting on the floor.** Thanks to the abundance of diversions and convenient guest services, Friday at T5 was a truly positive beginning to the

Christmas/New Year travel rush, crazy snowstorm be damned. Now if they'd just open up the old TWA building designed by Eero Saarinen, I wouldn't mind being delayed ever again.