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Drunk Mistakes Plane for Bus, Tries to Exit

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A drunken Urals builder flying home after a Black Sea vacation tried to exit the plane midflight after mistaking it for a bus, a news report said Monday.

The unidentified passenger was drunk when he boarded the plane in the Ukrainian city of Simferopol for the flight to Yekaterinburg on Sunday evening, and he continued to drink during the flight, the regional news web site Novy Region reported.

The report said the passenger was a 38-year-old builder from Novouralsk, a city about 70 kilometers north of Yekaterinburg.

After the aircraft reached cruising altitude of 10,000 meters, the man repeatedly tried to open the cabin door, saying he wanted to get out of the bus.

Male flight attendants finally restrained him.

The airline was not identified.

After landing in Yekaterinburg, the man threw a one-liter bottle of alcohol that he had bought at an airport duty-free shop in Simferopol at one of the male flight attendants. The 44-year-old flight attendant was hospitalized with a concussion and a fractured arm.

Police detained the man and were considering charging him with hooliganism with an intention to inflict bodily harm, a crime punishable with up to three years in prison.

It remained unclear whether he might face any penalties for attempting to jump from the plane.

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