



Item: Fast Lane #9 in 2022 Petergram (#103 since 2020)
Date: **Saturday, February 26th 2022**
From: Peter Sontag writing from our office in Oldsmar, Florida
To: Our Fast Lane Travel **Customer Family** and Friends at home
in **Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand,**
Singapore, South Africa and in the **USA!**
Subject: **My Ukraine Comment; Americans are travelling again;**
Switzerland drops all restrictions; and how about some
inner peace?

- I. **Russia's Invasion of Ukraine:** Unbelievable! But not surprising. Peter Kreuziger, Bob Armes and I may be the only ones in our Fast Lane Family who have lived under or experienced Russian occupation and domination in Austria after WW II. I was just two years old when WW II was over, but I remember all through my childhood, the wide-eyed fear on the faces of the adults around me. It was not unusual in those dark days to be told by a teacher or relative "if you don't behave, we'll give you to the Russians." Scary, and I behaved. I also remember on Sunday, May 15th 1955, when I was twelve years old, standing with my mother and tens of thousands of Austrian citizens, in the magnificent Gardens of the Belvedere Castle in Vienna, Austria. On the huge terrace of the Castle Julius Raab, Chancellor, and Leopold Figl, the Foreign Minister, the two Austrian negotiators, held up the signed "Staatsvertrag", i.e., the document signed by the Russians agreeing to their complete withdrawal from the occupation of Austria. Seven million people cheered on that day knowing that the Russians would be gone by July 1955. But as a memorial, no, perhaps as a warning, the Russians left the statue of a fully armed Russian Soldier on top of an obelisk on Schwarzenbergplatz in Vienna watching over the Austrians, that is still there today.



I believe that the Ukrainian invasion was fueled by the isolation and paranoia of the Russian Government. Remember, they don't get out much and all their news is

tightly controlled by the State. Their main, and pretty much, only, newspaper: Pravda – in Russian правда – ironically means “Truth.” Pravda espouses their narrow political understanding and representation of the world around them. Don’t forget the Ukrainian language is Russian with a few Polish words thrown in. The Russian’s view Ukraine “rightfully” as part of their Russian world. They are frightened that the Ukrainian “contamination” of democracy will spread into Russia threatening the power base of the Kremlin. They can’t and won’t tolerate this. After our Afghanistan debacle and the absence of a solid southern border, given our current consequential international image of the failures of the US Administration, we are not viewed as a deterrent to Russian ambitions. Their fear of the threat of Ukrainian democracy giving the Russian citizens “wrong ideas” is greater than their concern of the consequences of bringing the Ukraine back into their fold.

On the other hand, **the reality is** also that the distance from Kyiv to Stuttgart is greater than the distance from New York to Kansas City (over 1,200 miles). I also believe that with the Ukrainian “buffer” secure, there is no way that the Russians will move further west through Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria to Germany. They’ve been there about 70-some years ago and it didn’t work out well for them then. I feel very sorry for the Ukrainians, and I pray that they ultimately will fare well with “mother” Russia. I also hope that their “Staatsvertrag” will be crafted ASAP when Russia no longer feels threatened by Ukrainian politics at their doorstep.

III. GOOD NEWS: Switzerland is open for business again. Please click on the link below. The article announces that Switzerland Removes Most COVID Measures. Specifically:

- A. Mask wearing in shops and restaurants, as well as other public settings is no longer mandatory. (Exceptions remain for public transport and hospitals).
- B. No more access restrictions regulated by electronic COVID certificates to facilities such as cinemas, theaters, restaurants and events. Guests from the **U.S.** and **Canada** are therefore no longer required to apply for a Swiss COVID certificate.
- C. A Passenger Locator Form (PLF) will no longer be required when entering Switzerland.
- D. No COVID tests are required when entering Switzerland.
- E. <https://www.travelagentcentral.com/europe/switzerland-removes-most-covid-measures>
- F. It is forecasted that other countries surrounding Switzerland will follow suit shortly. I can’t wait to see you all in Stuttgart. **Time to enjoy life again folks!**

IV. More GOOD NEWS: Americans Are Emerging From the Pandemic Ready to Splurge on Events and Travel More consumers are hitting theme parks, dining out and booking hotel rooms, companies say. Source: **WSJ**, By Will Feuer, Feb. 17, 2022 5:33 am ET.

More Americans are satisfying their wanderlust and spending big to do it, companies say. With daily new Covid-19 cases falling, restrictions easing and the strongest consumer finances in recent history, Americans are finally emerging from the pandemic eager to splurge on everything from travel and sports events to restaurants, cruises and theme parks, executives say. “Premium customers, who after being cooped up for 2020 and the first part of 2021, are traveling and spending

2022 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trips in Current Planning V-103						
From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlight	pp Dble
Mon	2-May	Sat	7-May	PCA SpringPORSCHE TREFFEN in Stuttgart	+Spring Beerfest	\$ 5,998
Tue	31-May	Thu	9-Jun	Twelve Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest	Alpine Driving	\$ 12,998
Sun	5-Jun	Mon	13-Jun	The 90th 24-Hours of Le Mans Luxury Tour	Pit Pass, "50-yard line"	\$ 18,498
Sat	27-Aug	Thu	8-Sep	German Romantic Castles - Baltic Sea	Huge Success in '21	\$ 16,598
Sun	11-Sep	Sat	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum	\$ 6,498
Tue	20-Sep	Thu	29-Sep	USA Carolinas Fall Colors - Tail of the Dragon	Huge Success in '20	\$ 11,698
Tue	20-Sep	Sat	1-Oct	Swiss Alps & the Italian Dolomites	in design	\$ 15,698
Wed	21-Sep	Sat	1-Oct	Come Home to two Peters' Austria	NEW Luxury Experience	in design
Mon	3-Oct	Sat	15-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Wed	12-Oct	Sun	23-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen #2	Register ASAP, selling out	\$ 15,498
Sat	29-Oct	Tue	8-Nov	USA Romantic Wild West - fabulous sunsets	Huge Success in '21	\$ 11,998
Fri	2-Dec	Mon	12-Dec	Stuttgart X-Mas Market & Cruise to Vienna/Budapest	10 Christmas Markets	from \$5,200

again with a vengeance," Wynn Resorts Ltd. Chief Executive Craig Billings said Tuesday of the latest quarter. As more Americans travel, Marriott is seeing greater demand for its high-end properties, CEO Anthony Capuano said on a conference call with analysts Tuesday. At Walt Disney Co's theme parks, business came roaring back in the most recent quarter, with revenue from both domestic and international parks more than doubling year-over-year. Attendance is still short of pre-pandemic levels, but those who are showing up are spending as much as 40% more per capita than in 2019, Chief Financial Officer Christine McCarthy said last week. "We've got really strong domestic demand," CEO Bob Chapek told analysts. As more Americans venture out, some venues are dropping mask requirements. Disney said that starting Thursday, masks will be optional for fully vaccinated visitors at Disney's outdoor and indoor locations, except for enclosed transportation."

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Appeared in the February 18, 2022, print edition as 'Americans Start Splurging on Travel and Experiences.'

My Comment: "I look forward to all of you coming back with lots of friends to Fast Lane Travel."

V. 2022 European PORSCHE Tours UPDATE:

I'm not saying that things are completely back to normal yet, but I predict that, judging by the calls we are getting, it would appear that folks are eager and ready to get out and enjoy life again in a PORSCHE as life was meant to be enjoyed. On the **PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN** in Stuttgart I can still accommodate about 3 couples. On the **Twelve Alpine Passes** we have two groups of 6 couples each, but we have space for more. Don't forget about Le Mans – it's the 90th running of the race. It's expensive, but as they say, worth it.

VI. **2022 USA Tours:** By popular demand I am offering the wonderful and hugely successful **Romantic Wild West PORSCHE Fest** – check it out on our website www.fastlanetravel.com or just call us at 813 343 3001 or e-mail us at info@fastlanetravel.com – Thank you.

For the folks who want to experience John Wayne's Wild West and be awed by THE amazing scenery – you must join us on the **Romantic Wild West PORSCHE Fest** from Sat. Oct. 29th to Tue. Nov. 8th – It was by far THE most fun and successful PORSCHE

Fest last year – DON'T MISS THIS wonderful Experience. **I'd like six more couples to sign up for this trip.**

Furthermore, we are getting the most calls right now for the luxurious **Carolinas PORSCHE Fest**, Tuesday, September 20th to Thursday, September 29th. Don't miss our day at the PORSCHE Track in Atlanta; "German" Helen, GA; Romantic Highlands and, of course; the challenging and beautiful Tail of the Dragon – America's favorite mountain road in the East.

Despite the fact that the rest of Europe is following in Switzerland's footsteps, if Europe is not for you this year – then please don't miss our spectacular and successful **US PORSCHE Tours!**

VII. My Final Thoughts: Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones
are too busy to give you any time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without alcohol,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,



Then You Are Probably
The Family Dog!

And you thought I was going to get all spiritual...



Handle every Stressful situation like a dog.
If you can't eat it or play with it,
Pee on it and walk away.



Please stay safe, healthy, get both of your inoculations and booster shots, wear your masks inside in public and don't hug strangers. Look forward to the great times we will have together again on the MANY fabulous PORSCHE tours in 2022. Please register for one of our **USA PORSCHE Tours** – we all need to get out now and have some fun! All the best to you,
Peter