



Item: Fast Lane #28 in 2022 Petergram (#123 since 2020)
Date: **Saturday, July 9th 2022**
From: Peter writing from Austrian Airlines (OS (#) Vienna to IAD (Dulles) and from our office in Oldsmar, FL
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: **Report from beautiful Austria continued:**

I. Travel Industry News: In the last few weeks there have been numerous articles about airline staff shortages; flight cancellations; long check-in lines and luggage delays. **Peter's Comment:** A couple days ago I returned from Europe, plus I've been in Stuttgart twice since April and I'll share my personal experience:

- A. Book your flights as **early** as possible.
- B. Virtually all of our **PORSCHE Tours start in Stuttgart**. Delta is resuming the DL 116 non-stop from ATL to STR in the Spring of 2023 – There is no question that it'll be operating in time for our 2023 Spring PORSCHE Fest Tours, starting with the 2023 PCA Spring TREFEN to Stuttgart on Friday, April 21st 2023.
- C. In the meanwhile, **fly from the US to STR** (Stuttgart) via **AMS, BER or MUC**. I try to avoid LHR and CDG. There is a chance that if the US flight to Europe is delayed that you'll miss your connection to STR.
- D. Therefore, another excellent option, which I chose on the **Spring TREFFEN** trip, is a non-stop from the US to **FRA**. There is an airport service in FRA who will meet you at the arrival gate, expedite you through passport and customs and take you to the train for the one-hour ride to Stuttgart. They charge about 250 Euros for that service, but it is well worth it for your peace of mind. We'll be happy to arrange that for you.
- E. Of course, our Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC Agency will be happy to book your flights, train tickets and other arrangements. Please call **Bernice at 813 475 5989** who is our licensed travel agency manager and does outstanding work with flights, trains and hotels. **The most important travel advice is:** Use a travel agent because if anything goes awry you have someone who will help guide you to a solution. It's worth the modest fees our agency charges: domestic: \$50 and international \$125 per person. **Example:** At the end of my last ski trip in Steamboat, CO, I was at DEN Gate 28B a Southwest flight DEN – TPA. The monitor displayed: DELAYED, DELAYED, DELAYED, CANCELLED. The airline agent, in response to my request to book me on another airline was: "We don't do that!" She then advised me to take the train back to the Airport lobby and stand in line behind 800 travelers to get booked on another airline. I called Bernice. Within 5 minutes I was booked on a United flight on my way to TPA. Slam dunk. My ski stuff arrived at my house the next day. No problem.
- F. **Europe is totally back to normal**. Wearing a mask is optional, except it is still required on public transportation like subways, busses and trams. COVID Tests are no longer required when you return to the US.
- G. Our government also has travel advice:
<https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/air-travel-tips>
- H. So come on let's get back into the fun, enjoyment and exhilaration of travel!

II. Report from Austria continued

Day 2 in Austria: Sunday, June 26th was our Two Castles Day

Hans Pfisterer was at our hotel promptly at 9:00 am, on a beautiful Sunny Day, with our Mercedes 8-passenger van. We drove straight to **Schönbrunn** the renowned Habsburg summer Palace modelled after Versailles yet in a much better location with amazing flower gardens. We took a little sightseeing train around the whole area and enjoyed the view from the magnificent **Gloriette** from where you can see pretty much all of Vienna.



After **Schönbrunn** we drove across the “blue” Danube to the ominous **Burg Kreuzenstein**. It is a real medieval castle with the moat, drawbridge, fall gate, inner fortifications and the living quarters of the Dukes or Earls living there. The kids were fascinated by the weapons chamber, the underground kitchen and the medieval décor.



We enjoyed a fascinating tour of this castle in German, which I translated as we went along. For example, in the master bedroom a couple objects stood out. Next to the bed was a money chest with dogs painted on the inside bottom to symbolically guard the money. But when it was visible you then have “gone to the dogs.” Or when people in the medieval days slept they wore a cotton pouch around their neck which was soaked in animal blood so that it would attract the lice and fleas during the night and not bite them – hence the expression of a “fleabag” hotel. The Sleeping, dining, hunting rooms, were heated by ceramic stoves by servants from behind the walls. Hence “the walls have ears.”

In the evening we were invited to dinner by Paul Blaguss and his family. Blaguss is a brand name in Austria. They operate the largest bus and travel company in the country. Paul Blaguss, Jr. about 20 years ago spent a year in the US with me as an intern. I placed him in various travel companies around the country. His father and my good friend, Paul Blaguss, Sr. has told me that his one year in the US has contributed to the success of their business with the experience and knowledge he acquired here. We had a wonderful dinner on top of the highest structure in Vienna: der Donauturm (Danube tower), which is owned by the Blaguss enterprise. Thank you Blaguss Family for your generous hospitality, and thank you Hans Pfisterer for chauffeuring us all over the place.



Day 3 in Austria: Monday, June 27th was our shopping and Prater Day:

Ever since my kids and now grandkids were little, a special treat from Austria was a little packet of “Manner Schnitten.” They are little wafers, filled with chocolate and nougat, that come in a small packet of 12 and are simply delicious. Everyone couldn’t wait to go the Manner Store right next to St. Stephen’s Cathedral in the heart of Vienna. We then did a little more sightseeing with a new service: an electric antique reproduction convertible around the magnificent Ringstrasse Boulevard and various other sights. The people in Austria are by far THE most accommodating, welcoming and friendly in Europe. They also have a wonderful sense of humor. This is underscored by how they greet each other in Vienna. About 2000 years ago **Vindobona** was a Roman Garrison. All locals in whatever area the Romans conquered were immediately enslaved and referred to as “Servus” as I mentioned in my last Petergram. So my ancestors were slaves, and in the 2000-year old tradition still call each other that. Go figure.



Day 4 in Austria: Tuesday, June 28th we headed to the very scenic “Green Heart” of Austria: Steiermark.

In 1951 my mother worked summers in a mountain resort hotel “Panhans” in Semmering, which after WW II was the dividing line between the East, i.e., Russia and the West. We stopped briefly for some Cappuccino and then headed further southwest to the little town where my mother was born and I spent summers as a little kid: Mürzzuschlag. The town is known for Johannes Brahms, the inventor of the hydro-turbine Kaplan and the alleged invention of skiing as depicted in the local ski museum. We were met and greeted at the town entrance by Gerald, our Austrian State Trooper, who has guided many of you to Tuscany and other wonderful places. We visited the places where I lived with my grandparents which now is pretty dilapidated. We had reservations at Villa Lambach, a beautiful chalet overlooking the valley.



Day 5 in Austria: Wednesday, June 28th on to Salzburg, but first Eisenerz. What is Eisenerz you ask? About 1,300 ago the locals discovered that this mountain in Steiermark had an amazingly high iron ore content – in fact Eisenerz = Iron Ore. Austria, therefore, is one of the largest producer steel products, like i-beams or railroad tracks. It’s an open pit mine operating monstrous equipment they call Hauleys. One of them is converted into the largest taxi in the world in the largest iron ore mine in the world.- what an amazing

experience: Lukas was thrilled that we also were next to one of the many giant wind turbines in Austria. Mission accomplished.

Check it out: https://www.steiermark.com/en/Plan-your-holiday/Excursion-destinations/Adventure-Erzberg_isd_281388



After riding in a monster taxi, we continued to the “Sound of Music City” Salzburg, checking into our favorite Sheraton Grande. We arrived late so we had dinner overlooking the Mirabell Garden. The view from our terraces on the 7th floor was amazing.

Day 5 in Austria: Wednesday, June 29th Salzburg Sightseeing: After enjoying the phenomenal breakfast buffet at the Sheraton we headed into town with the help of Richard Stocker our local contractor. We immediately took the funicular up to the castle and relished the magnificent view. I then had one of Franz Winter’s horse drawn carriages waiting for us for a leisurely tour of the city. In the afternoon we visited the well-known and attended **American International School-Salzburg**. The reason this was important to my family was that both of my daughters spent their high school summers in Salzburg learning German. It was a wonderful nostalgic visit for them. There is nothing like it for teenagers to spend summers abroad to be immersed in another culture, meet peers from all over the world, and learning another language. A few years ago when my older daughter, Alicia, was VP Marketing for Clinique, she was sent to Munich for an assignment for a couple of months. Her German co-workers were amazed that here was an American who could communicate with them flawlessly in their language.- “sehr gut gelernt!” We had dinner at a wonderful vegan restaurant. I had THE best non-meat hamburger ever.

Day 5 in Austria: Thursday, June 30th I’ll continue with the conclusion of our Austria trip in the next Petergram.

III. The traditional **FALL TREFFEN to Stuttgart**. This week we will be finalizing all arrangements for this exhilarating experience to enjoy a day in Zuffenhausen at the awesome **PORSCHE Museum** and be able to get a very rare tour of the **PORSCHE Factory**. In addition, we spend a couple days driving a PORSCHE on the Autobahn, in the Bavarian Mountains and across the Austrian Alps. It’s a very rare treat to get invited by

PORSCHE. **Get a group together from your local PCA Region** and enjoy unequalled hospitality and an amazing **PORSCE Experience**. **Come on, check it off your bucket list!**

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER.

IV. Our **US PORSCHE Fest** trips are a very attractive option for you if Europe is not in the cards for you this year. So, drive your own PORCHE, Corvette, '62 Cadillac, Lexus or whatever, to our superbly planned and organized **Carolinas** and **Romantic Wild West** tours. We conduct both US trips in THE most desirable time of the year in each location. The **Fall Colors of the Carolinas**. If you don't want to bring your own car, we will assist you to rent one from PORSCHE Drive Atlanta or the Phoenix PORSCHE Dealer. Please check out these links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coKJcvb0nII> and this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8tGOBhxkdQ>

2022 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trips Still Available V-121						
From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlights & Status	pp Dble
Sun	11-Sep	Sat	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	PORSCHE Factory	\$ 6,498
Tue	20-Sep	Thu	29-Sep	USA Carolinas Fall Colors - Tail of the Dragon	Spaces still Available	\$ 11,998
Mon	3-Oct	Sat	15-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen #1	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	Romantic Wild West - THE best of the USA	Don't miss out on this trip	\$ 11,998

V. 2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours Forecast:

2023 Planned Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours:						
From	Date	To	Date	PORSCHE Tour	Highlights	
Fri	21-Apr	Wed	26-Apr	Original PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum	
Sun	23-Apr	Thu	4-May	NEW: From Munich to Amazing Croatia	Alps, Gmünd & Adriatic Coast	
Sat	3-Jun	Mon	12-Jun	HUGE: The 100th 24-Hours of Le Mans Luxury Tour	Paddock, Pit Pass, Tribune	
Wed	7-Jun	Fri	16-Jun	REPEAT: Twelve Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest	Awesome Scenery & Fun	
Sat	8-Jul	Mon	17-Jul	Our 5th: Colorado Rocky Mountain High	The BEST or the Rockies	
Sun	28-Aug	Thu	7-Sep	NEW: Come Home to Two Peters' Austria	An unequalled private tour	
Mon	11-Sep	Sun	17-Sep	Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart	Factory & Museum	
Wed	20-Sep	Sun	1-Oct	Our 3rd: Fast Lane Alpine Adventure	Repeated by Popular Requ.	
Tue	3-Oct	Sun	15-Oct	Our 12th: Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & Interlpen	Our Annual Favorite	
in planning - early December				NEW: Christmas Markets in Germany & Austria	Starting in Stuttgart to Vienna	

VI. My Final Thoughts: Signs That You Are No Longer A Kid:

1. You can live without sex but not without glasses.
2. Your back goes out more than you do.
3. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
4. You buy a compass for the dash of your car.
5. You are proud of your lawn mower.
6. Your best friend is dating someone half their age...and isn't breaking any laws.
7. You call Olan Mills before they call you.
8. Your arms are almost too short to read the newspaper.
9. You sing along with the elevator music.
10. You would rather go to work than stay home sick.

11. You constantly talk about the price of gasoline.
12. You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
13. You consider coffee one of the most important things in life.
14. You make an appointment to see the dentist.
15. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
16. Neighbors borrow your tools.
17. People call at 9 p.m. and ask, "Did I wake you?"
18. You have a dream about prunes.
19. You're asleep, but others worry that you're dead.
20. You answer a question with, "because I said so!"
21. The end of your tie doesn't come anywhere near the top of your pants.
22. You take a metal detector to the beach.
23. You wear black socks with sandals.
24. You know what the word "equity" means.
25. You can't remember the last time you laid on the floor to watch television.
26. Your ears are getting hairier than your head.
27. You get into a heated argument about pension plans.
28. You got cable for the weather channel. ("Old Folks MTV.")
29. You can go bowling without drinking.
30. You have a party, and the neighbors don't even realize it.

Please stay safe, healthy, and look forward to the great times we will have together again on the remaining **PORSCHE tours in 2022 and the fabulous tours planned for 2023**. Please register for one of our **2022 USA PORSCHE Tours** – You really must get out now and have some fun! All the best to you, Peter

