



Item: Fast Lane 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2023 Petergram (#149 since 2020)  
Date: **Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
From: Peter writing back in 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!  
Subjects: The Airline Industry today; which Spring Trip seems to be THE most popular; and Senior Pearls of Wisdom.

I. The Airline Industry: The lack of understanding of the complexity of the logistics of the Airline Industry in Washington is underscored by absence of leadership and support by the current Secretary of Transportation. Allow me a little reflection:



We've come a long way in the airline industry. But it seems to me, that the industry has not managed our expectations well. To wit, on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1960, I boarded a **SAS Douglas DC-6B Cloudmaster** at CPH Airport in Denmark after a short flight on a Caravelle from VIE, Austria. My first flight

across the Atlantic was an unimaginable adventure by today's standards. The maximum altitude was about 28,000 ft with a range of about 2,800 miles. I flew over Iceland, with a refueling stop in Labrador, Canada. From there on to Idlewild Airport in New York (re-named JFK on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>1963). The flight was 21 hours long! Today we cross the Atlantic in about 6 hours and change. On **Concorde**, I've done it in under 3 hours!

On Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>1978, Jimmy Carter signed the Airline Deregulation Act. That year all US Airlines carried less than 300 million customers. Today these numbers have about tripled. Deregulation was painful for the industry as famous names like PAA, TWA, EAS and others failed. New airlines, like Braniff, Peoples Express, New York Air, and Florida Air, all unburdened by old expensive union constraints, saw a tremendous opportunity. A new airline business model emerged. Along with this (r)evolution we have been spoiled by a plethora of choices, unbelievable low costs, and a comparatively safe air transportation system. But we have trouble accepting that sometimes various elements combine to create "the perfect storm" like a couple of weeks ago.

After some intense winter weather over the Holidays, let's now get the Government involved and punish the Airlines. Surely that's a great idea? What stupidity. For 14 years I was a member of the board of directors of a major airline and, I believe, that I have a pretty good understanding of an airline management's challenges. The complexity of airline operations is simply mind boggling.

- A. Safety, of course, is paramount. Equipment must function flawlessly. The FAA has rigorous requirements in place for the maintenance of the planes. For example, the average C-Check of a B737 costs between \$1.8 and \$3.0 million and must be performed approximately every 20 months. It's much more extensive than the B-check which must be performed every 6 – 8 months, which takes about 3 days in a hangar and takes about 180 man-hours. Never mind spare parts management . . . unimaginable.
- B. Forecasting anticipated demand and, consequential, flight scheduling is a craps shoot. Delta has over 900 planes in its fleet. American has about the same, for example.
- C. Weather . . . requires no further comment. Particularly in the winter when snow and ice make flying more difficult. Remember Air Florida Flight 90 in 1982, which waited too long for take-off after de-icing.
- D. Flight crew training, crew availability and onerous union regulations which create operations and scheduling nightmares resulting in costly inefficiencies - particularly on international flights.
- E. Ditto, to some degree, with cabin crews and ground service staff.
- F. Fuel access, balance, and cost require mathematical precision.
- G. Inter-airlines financial reconciliations – that's a biggie internationally.
- H. Mortgage payments on all flight equipment, hopefully supported by maximum flight hours. Planes only make money in the air.
- I. And I haven't begun to cover reservation systems, luggage management, catering, aircraft cleaning, and let's not forget, competitive marketing of the product and ticket pricing. And all these systems must talk to each other.

So, let's hope that the Government doesn't add additional regulatory burdens; that competition will prevail; that airlines will intensify crew training and that airlines hire companies like IBM (as the major airlines in the Far East have done) to upgrade their complex computer management systems. A reliable air transportation system must prevail as the lifeblood of our economy.

- II. **The 2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trip of the week: The NEW Spring TREFFEN Plus, starting in Stuttgart to Lake Como, Italy Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. On April 25<sup>th</sup> I will be celebrating a big birthday with one of those beer mugs depicted in this picture. . .**

Once we announce a trip, the number of inquiries asking for detailed itineraries are a good harbinger of the attendance and success of a trip. So far, this trip ranks first in inquiries for the first half of this year. Participants on this trip can plan to visit the new PORSCHE Museum and get to see the Factory – a very rare privilege these days. From past experience some folks have exclaimed that the trip highlight is the great **Frühlingsfest** – the venerable Oktoberfest in the Spring celebrated



after a long winter – the folks in Stuttgart know how to party cheering the arrival of spring! Don't miss it. After completing the necessary paperwork and picking up our **PORSCHEs**, lined up for us at the Museum entrance, we head south towards the Alps and the shores of the largest lake in Europe – **Lake Constance**. We'll stay at the 5-Star Bayerischer Hof in Lindau with a magnificent view across the lake to Switzerland. From Lindau we will cross **Switzerland**, whoosh by Liechtenstein and arrive at the luxurious 5-Star Grand Hotel Tremezzo, directly on **Lake Como**. We'll spend a few days there, do some shopping in **Bellagio**, (that's the real one – not the one in Las Vegas) take a boat to **Isola Comacina** for a wonderful dinner plus have some fun on our classic **James Bond Photo Rally** to the Verzasca Valley. You'll receive "valuable" prizes at the Rally Dinner. The trip back to Stuttgart is breathtaking. We do this trip only every 3 to 5 years – don't miss it.



In the next Petergram – I'll feature another trip of the week plus a new schedule matrix of all the trips in 2023. This is the year!

**Note:** travel demand to Europe is the highest we've seen since 2019. THE most desirable venues and hotels are filling up. **This year you need to start planning your PORSCHE vacation earlier to make sure you don't miss out.** So, please choose your trip and **call us – 1 813 343 3001** or just go to [www.fastlanetravel.com](http://www.fastlanetravel.com) and register for your trip.

This year we also have **reduced the trip prices** by excluding the previously included rental of a 911 from AVIS. Due to the Factory pandemic closures, supply chain delays, and a ship with over 1,000 PORSCHEs sinking in the Atlantic. Your benefit is that you now have the opportunity to select the PORSCHE of your choice, directly from PORSCHE drive and charge it to your credit card, like renting a car in the US. The REAL benefit is that you now have a wide choice of models from a Boxster, Cayman, 911, to a Turbo – or a SUV. Of course, there is not an unlimited supply of every model available, thus folks who book ASAP have a higher probability of getting your first model choice you selected.

Some of the planned trips may not be on our website yet – if you are interested and you want to make sure you don't miss out or have questions, then please e-mail me: [peter@fastlanetravel.com](mailto:peter@fastlanetravel.com) or call our office at +1 813 343 3001.

It'll be a fantastic year to be in Europe and enjoying the benefits of our native local knowledge, our close to 50 years of PORSCHE Tours experience and the Fast Lane luxury style you have enjoyed since 1975.



### **III. Final Thoughts of the Week: Senior Pearls of Wisdom ...**

Source: my brother Dave Hatch

I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible but pissing everyone off is a piece of cake.

I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand.

Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low these days. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there's a new strain out there.

It's not my age that bothers me; it's the side effects.

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: It will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Me, sobbing: "I can't see you anymore. . . . I'm not going to let you hurt me again."  
My Trainer: "It was just one sit-up."

As I've gotten older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.

I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.

Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round. . . and laughed and laughed and laughed.

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.

Apparently RSVPing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" isn't the correct response.

So you've been eating hot dogs and McChicken's all your life, but you won't take the vaccine because you don't know what's in it. Are you kidding me?

If you find yourself feeling useless, remember it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, and four presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

Sometimes the Universe puts you in the same situation again to see if you're still a dumbass.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is that once you get old, you stop being polite and start being honest



Please stay healthy and happy. I hope you enjoyed the holidays with loved ones. Look forward to the great times we will have together again on the MANY fabulous PORSCHE tours in 2023 and help us plan for 2024. I can't wait to get back to Europe in April. All the best to you, Peter

