



Item: Fast Lane 4<sup>th</sup> in 2023 Petergram (#151 since 2020)  
Date: **Saturday, January 21<sup>st</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: Passport Renewal; URGENT: Sign up for the trips of the week: TREFFENS; and Observations on France 😊

## I. Americans Can Still Renew Their Passport Online in 2023

Source: The Travel Market Report; by [Daniel McCarthy](#) / January 11, 2023  
*U.S. passport holders can renew online right now. Photo: Shutterstock.com*

With a New Year comes another reminder to **check the date on your passport.**

As part of a recent [promise by the federal government](#), the Department of State is continuing to make it easy for U.S. passport holders to renew their passports in 2023 by continuing to allow for online renewal.



The system is technically still in testing mode with the plan to roll it out fully sometime in 2023 (the Dept. of State has yet to release the date for a full launch at this time). The State Dept. could close the portal soon, but as of the beginning of January, it is temporarily open (and has been since Nov. 20, 2022) for those wanting to renew their passport online right now.

"We are committed to the President's Executive Order on Transforming Federal Customer Experience and Service Delivery to Rebuild Trust in Government. Delivering on this promise, we began testing a secure online passport renewal (OPR) option. OPR saves Americans time and effort, making it more convenient to renew their passports," a State Department spokesperson told TMR this week.

"Based on feedback and learning from the limited releases, we continue to make improvements to optimize the user experience for renewing passports online. Full availability to the public for online passport renewal is targeted for 2023."

Holders are allowed to renew online if their passport is/was valid for 10 years, if they are at least 25 years old, if their most recent passport was issued over 9 years ago but less than 15 years ago from the date of submission, and if they are not traveling internationally for at least six weeks from the date of submission.

Applicants will have to pay for their passport using a credit or debit card and upload a digital passport photo along with their application. It's also important to remember that an applicant's most recent passport will be immediately invalidated once the new application is submitted.

If travelers qualify, they can start the process by first creating a MyTravelGov account and waiting for approval (typically takes up to 4 hours) before filling out the application, which includes uploading a photo and paying for the renewal online. Travelers can track their progress through a link while they wait for renewal, which the State Department said typically took as long as renewing normally.

Processing times are the same as those for renewing by mail—the State Dept. says routine service is currently 6 to 9 weeks and expedited is 3 to 5 weeks. Applicants who have international travel within two weeks can still get it expedited at an agency if need be.

**II. The 2023 Fast Lane TWO PORSCHE Trips of the week: The **NEW Spring TREFFEN Plus** and the **Traditional Spring TREFFEN** are 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** – don't miss this spectacular trip. Wolfgang Porsche's and my **BIG Birthday** are only 3 weeks apart! (I'm 3 weeks older).**

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, the **TREFFEN PLUS** now 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. Please note that we have **reserved private tables** for the PCA Group. In addition, we also have private toilets in the special section of the beerhall. A couple days after this party we are 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. Let's show the PORSCHE folks in Stuttgart that we care!



**III. Our 2023 Program is Fantastic – Please 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.



2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Planned Trips # 151 V-2 PS							
Code	From	Date	To	Date	Fast Lane PORSCHE Tour	Highlights	PP Dble
STR	Sun	23-Apr	Fri	28-Apr	PCA Spring PORSCHE <b>TREFFEN</b> Stuttgart Traditional	Autobahn, Factory & Museum	\$ 4,998
STP	Sun	23-Apr	Mon	1-May	PCA Spring PORSCHE <b>TREFFEN</b> Stuttgart <b>PLUS</b>	+ Lakes Constance & Como, Italy	\$ 10,998
TAP	Wed	31-May	Fri	9-Jun	Twelve Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest	Austrian, Swiss and Italian Alps	\$ 10,998
LEM	Sun	4-Jun	Mon	12-Jun	The <b>100th</b> 24-Hours of Le Mans Luxury Tour	Helicopter, Grid Walk, Pit Passes	\$ 19,998
TPF1	Wed	6-Sep	Sun	17-Sep	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest & <b>extra</b> Interlpen Day	Private Estate, Cooking Class	\$ 12,998
FTR	Wed	20-Sep	Mon	18-Sep	<b>Traditional</b> PCA Fall PORSCHE <b>TREFFEN</b> Stuttgart	Autobahn, Factory & Museum	\$ 4,998
FTP	Wed	20-Sep	Fri	29-Sep	Fall PORSCHE <b>TREFFEN</b> Stuttgart <b>PLUS</b>	+ Lakes Constance & Como, Italy	\$ 10,998
INT	Wed	4-Oct	Sun	15-Oct	<b>NEW:</b> Interlpen & The Best of <b>Austria's Alps</b>	You'll be luxuriously spoiled	\$ 11,998
TPF2	Mon	16-Oct	Sat	28-Oct	<b>Tuscany</b> PORSCHE Fest, Alps & <b>Florence</b>	Private Estate, Cooking Class	\$ 12,998
VIE	Sat	2-Dec	Sun	10-Dec	<b>Christmas Markets</b> in <b>Stuttgart, Salzburg</b> and <b>Vienna</b>	Wonderful Glühwein & Shopping	t.b.d.

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, the PORSCHE Company has not provided any cars to the rental companies like AVIS. Your benefit is that you now have the option 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 truly great 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 become accustomed to and enjoyed since 1975.



IV. In conjunction with the renowned Le Mans Race drivers **Robin Donovan** and **Derek Bell**, we are conducting an amazing trip to the **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Le Mans Race** in La Sarthe, France in June. **BTW Le Mans is SOLD OUT.** Thus, I couldn't help but recite some tongue-in-cheek observations about France (the definition of tongue-in-cheek according to Wikipedia: The idiom tongue-in-cheek refers to a humorous or sarcastic statement expressed in a serious manner). **My apologies to all you Francophiles, the rest of you enjoy!**

"France has neither winter nor summer nor morals. Apart from these drawbacks it is a fine country. France has usually been governed by prostitutes."

*Mark Twain*

"I would rather have a German division in front of me than a French one behind me."

*General George S. Patton*

"Going to war without France is like going deer hunting without your accordion."

*Norman Schwarzkopf*

"We can stand here like the French, or we can do something about it."

*Marge Simpson*

"As far as I'm concerned, war always means failure."

*Jacques Chirac, President of France*



"The only time France wants us to go to war is when the German Army is sitting in Paris sipping coffee." *Regis Philbin*

"The last time the French asked for "more proof" it came marching into Paris under a German flag." David Letterman

"Only thing worse than a Frenchman is a Frenchman who lives in Canada ."  
Ted Nugent

"War without France would be like ... World War II."  
Unknown

"The favorite bumper sticker in Washington D.C. right now is one that says "First Iraq, then France ."  
Tom Brokaw

"What do you expect from a culture and a nation that exerted more of its national will fighting against Disney World and Big Macs than the Nazis?"  
Dennis Miller

"It is important to remember that the French have always been there when they needed us." Alan Kent

"They've taken their own precautions against al-Qaeda. To prepare for an attack, each Frenchman is urged to keep duct tape, a white flag, and a three-day supply of mistresses in the house." Argus Hamilton

"Somebody was telling me about the French Army rifle that was being advertised on eBay --the description was, "Never shot. Dropped once." Rep. Roy Blunt, MO

"The French will only agree to go to war when we've proven we've found truffles in Iraq "  
Dennis Miller

"Do you know how many Frenchmen it takes to defend Paris? It's not known, it's never been tried." Rep. R. Blount, MO

"Do you know it only took Germany three days to conquer France in WWII? And that's because it was raining." John Xereas, Manager, DC Improv

French Ban Fireworks at Euro Disney (AP), Paris, March 5, 2003

The French Government announced today that it is imposing a ban on the use of fireworks at Euro Disney. The decision comes the day after a nightly fireworks display at the park, located just 30 miles outside of Paris, caused the soldiers at a nearby French Army garrison to surrender to a group of Czech tourists.



Please stay healthy and happy. I hope you are looking forward to the great times we will have together again on one of the 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**