



Item: Fast Lane News #21st in 2023 (#168 since 2020) on Saturday, May 20th 2023

From: Peter in our office in Oldsmar, FL

To: Our Fast Lane Travel Family and Friends at home in Australia, Canada, Europe, Iceland, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, South Africa and in the USA!

Subject: Great News, Interlpen PORSCHE Fest Upgrade, Balance of 2023 ALL PORSCHE Tours, US\$ is Losing Strength, Final Thoughts: An Airline Reservations Agent.

I. The Interlpen PORSCHE Fest – Great News: Thomas and I have been working for the last six weeks to add more features and amazing drives to respond to the requests we had from several participants. This falls in the category of: “if you want to know how to run your business, ask your customers” to quote my friend Eddy Yates. I have added:

1. A visit to **Zell am See**, the hometown of the PORSCHE Family. Please see the **May PORSCHE PANORAMA** Article on p. 76 by Rob Sass “**To Zell and Back.**” Also please see the **Fast Lane Travel Ad** on p. 83 with our trip highlights. It’ll be fabulous.
2. A trip across the legendary toll roads of the **Grossglockner Hochalpenstrasse** and/or the scenic **Felbertauern Hochstrasse**.
3. A visit to the Helmut **Pfeifhofer PORSCHE Museum** in Kärnten, Austria.
4. We have been able to secure a visit and guided tour to the birthplace of PORSCHE in Austria to the original **1948 PORSCHE Factory** site lovingly restored and preserved in Gmünd, Austria.



5. A stroll through the only **PORSCHE Park** in the world outside the Gmünd's City Walls.

6. Lunch at the renowned Fallerhütte in the Malta Valley – if you like trout, they are fresh from the brook next to the restaurant.
7. A stay at this wonderful Chalet on Lake Millstättersee near Gmünd.



8. I have included the famous **“Sound of Music”** City **Salzburg** where you’ll enjoy a delightful Mozart Dinner at the oldest Restaurant in Europe – the **St. Peters Keller**, founded in **803 A.D.** - yes, that’s 1,220 years ago!



9. On the way back to Stuttgart, we’ll explore the NEW Ferdinand PORSCHE Erlebniswelt Fahrtraum in Mattsee, Austria, north of Salzburg – you’ll want to stay there: <https://www.fahrtraum.at/en/> awesome PORSCHE History.

II. Balance of the FALL PORSCHE Trips 2023: Don't Miss Out – Complete Your Bucket List!

Don't Miss the Balance of the Fall 2023 Fast Lane PORSCHE Trips!					
From	Date	To	Date	Fast Lane PORSCHE Tour	Highlights
Wed	31-May	Fri	9-Jun	Twelve Alpine Passes PORSCHE Fest	Austrian, Swiss and Italian Alps
Sun	4-Jun	Mon	12-Jun	The 100th 24-Hours of Le Mans Luxury Tour	SOLD OUT
Wed	20-Sep	Mon	25-Sep	PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart Traditional	Autobahn, Factory & Museum . . .
Wed	20-Sep	Fri	29-Sep	PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN Stuttgart PLUS	plus Lakes Constance & Como, Italy
Wed	4-Oct	Sun	15-Oct	NEW: Interlpen, Zell am See, Gmünd, Salzburg	You'll be luxuriously spoiled
Mon	16-Oct	Sat	28-Oct	Tuscany, Alps, Florence, Siena, Pienza, Montalcino	Private Estate, Cooking Class
Sat	2-Dec	Sun	10-Dec	Christmas Markets in Stuttgart, Salzburg and Vienna	Wonderful Glühwein & Shopping

III. US\$ News: Dollar Is Off to Worst Start Since 2018. Source: WSJ, Business & Finance, Tuesday, May 2nd 2023 B1 by Chelsey Dulaney. **Not a big deal for our trips – minimal impact, just FYI.**

The greenback has fallen about 8.3% from a peak in September, as tracked by the WSJ Dollar Index, and is experiencing its worst start to the year since 2018. The U.S. economy no longer looks so exceptional. That is bad news for the dollar. Investors are betting the U.S. currency has further to fall as the Federal Reserve nears the end of its most aggressive program of interest-rate increases since the 1980s. Also weighing on the dollar: concerns over the banking system, a potential U.S. debt default and expectations, shared by many economists, that the U.S. will slip into recession in the coming months. Fed tightening spurred a historic rally in the dollar last year that sent it to multidecade highs against currencies such as the euro and the yen. The dollar began weakening in the fall, held its ground in the new year as inflation proved more stubborn than expected, and has resumed its downdraft in the past two months. The Fed is expected this week to deliver its last quarter-point rate increase before hitting pause on policy tightening. That would put the Fed at odds with other major central banks, including in the eurozone and the U.K., which reopened from pandemic lockdowns later than the U.S. and are now seeing stickier inflation.

IV. My Final Thoughts: Part I: RESERVATION OF AN AIRLINE AGENT (After surviving 130,000 calls from the traveling public) By Jonathan Lee -- The Washington Post

I work in the central reservation office of an airline company. After more than 130,000 conversations -- all ending with "Have a nice day and thanks for calling" -- I think it's fair to say that I'm a survivor.

I've made it through all the calls from adults who didn't know the difference between a.m. and p.m., from mothers of military recruits who didn't trust their little soldiers to get it right, from the woman who called to get advice on how to handle her teenage daughter, from the man who wanted to ride inside the kennel with his dog so he wouldn't have to pay for a seat, from the woman who wanted to know why she had to change clothes on our flight between Chicago and Washington (she was told she'd have to

make a change between the two cities) and from the man who asked if I'd like to discuss the existential humanism that emanates from the soul of Habeeb.

In five years, I've received more than a boot camp education regarding the astonishing lack of awareness of our American citizenry. This lack of awareness encompasses every region of the country, economic status, ethnic background, and level of education. My battles have included everything from a man not knowing how to spell the name of the town he was from, to another not recognizing the name of "Iowa" as being a state, to another who thought he had to apply for a foreign passport to fly to West Virginia. They are the enemy and they are everywhere.

In the history of the world there has never been as much communication and new things to learn as today. Yet, after asking a woman from New York what city she wanted to go to in Arizona, she asked "Oh is it a big place?"

I talked to a woman in Denver who had never heard of Cincinnati, a man in Minneapolis who didn't know there was more than one city in the South ('wherever the South is'), a woman in Nashville who asked, "Instead of paying for my ticket, can I just donate the money to the National Cancer Society?", and a man in Dallas who tried to pay for his ticket by sticking quarters in the pay phone he was calling from.

I knew a full invasion was on the way when, shortly after signing on, a man asked if we flew to exit 35 on the New Jersey Turnpike. Then a woman asked if we flew to area code 304. And I knew I have been shipped off to the front when I was asked, "When an airplane comes in, does that mean it's arriving or departing?" I remembered the strict training we had received -- four weeks of regimented classes on airline codes, computer technology, and telephone behavior -- and it allowed for no means of retaliation. We were told, "it's real hell out there and ya got no defense. You're going to hear things so silly you can't even make 'em up. You'll try to explain things to your friends that you don't even believe yourself, and just when you think you've heard it all, someone will ask if they can get a free round-trip ticket to Europe by reciting 'Mary Had a Little Lamb.' It wasn't long before I suffered a direct hit from a woman who wanted to fly to Hippopotamus, NY. After assuring her that there was no such city, she became irate and said it was a big city with a big airport. I asked if Hippopotamus was near Albany or Syracuse. It wasn't. Then I asked if it was near Buffalo. "Buffalo!" she said, "I knew it was a big animal!"

Then I crawled out of my bunker long enough to be confronted by a man who tried to catch our flight in Maconga. I told him I'd never heard of Maconga and we certainly didn't fly to it. But he insisted we did and to prove it he showed me his ticket: Macon, GA. I've done nothing during my conversational confrontations to indicate that I couldn't understand English. But after quoting the round-trip fare the passenger just asked for, he'll always ask: "Is that one-way?" I never understood why they always question if what I just gave them is what they just asked for.

But I've survived to direct the lost, correct the wrong, comfort the weary, teach U.S. geography and give tutoring in the spelling and pronunciation of American cities. I have been told things like: "I can't go stand-by for your flight because I'm in a wheelchair." I've been asked such questions as: "I have a connecting flight to Knoxville. Does that mean

the plane sticks to something?" And once a man wanted to go to Illinois. When I asked what city he wanted to go to in Illinois, he said, "Cleveland, Ohio."

After 130,000 little wars of varying degrees, I'm a wise old veteran of communication conflict and can anticipate with accuracy what the next move by "them" will be. Seventy-five percent won't have anything to write on. Half will not have thought about when they're returning. A third won't know where they're going; 10 percent won't care where they're going. A few won't care if they get back. And James will be the first name of half the men who call.

But even if James doesn't care if he gets to the city he never heard of; even if he thinks he has to change clothes on our plane that may stick to something; even if he can't spell, pronounce, or remember what city he's returning to, he'll get there because I've worked very hard to make sure that he can. Then with a click of the phone, he'll become a part of my past and I'll be hoping the next caller at least knows what day it is.

Oh, and James "Thanks for calling and have a nice day."



Please stay healthy and stay young; be happy and take good care of yourself...Let's look forward to the great times we will have together again on one of our fabulous PORSCHE tours this year and help us plan for 2024. **I hope to see y'all soon. Peter**

