



Item: Fast Lane News #32 in 2023 (#179 since 2020 & published on Saturday, August 5th 2023)

From: Peter on DL 263 CDG to JFK, at the Crown Room at JFK and DL 2431 JFK to TPA and 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: A couple days in Paris in July; Results of our 2024 Customers' Trips Requests Survey; My Final Thoughts: 12 Commandments for Seniors; and some random pictures from past trips.

I. Thursday, July 27th 2023: Sadly, today we disembarked the wonderful AMA Dolce. This trip is a must for anyone who is interested in the best of French culture, lifestyle, wine and food. Now on to Paris.

Susan Sheridan our agency manager, once again arranged for our Paris welcome from Bordeaux at CDG at the jetway. We were escorted to the luggage area and then transferred smoothly in a Mercedes van to the superbly located 4-star Hotel Le Cambon. It's a little 7-story boutique place



close to Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome, and Rue St. Honoré. The Jardin des Tuileries Park is right across Rue de Rivoli. The hotel has no restaurant but has a small lobby bar and serves an ample breakfast. However, directly across the street is a delightful typically French neighborhood restaurant **Brasserie**

Flottes. The concierge made dinner reservations and we were welcome like long lost family. I ordered the obligatory Foie Gras, followed by a delicious Dover Sole with a tasty vegetable casserole. We all had a wonderful dinner with superb wine from, of course, Bordeaux. Flottes also provides the room-service for guests at the Le Cambon.

Stuff happens: after we returned from our opulent dinner, we learned that the one elevator in the hotel broke down. An elevator service crew was there working on it; however, we were informed that they could not fix it due to the part not being available until the morning. Well, athletic as we are, we shlepped ourselves up to our respective floors. We had a good night's sleep and the elevator was fixed by the time everyone was ready to come down to breakfast.



I have mentioned previously, after staying at a hotel in various parts of the world, that just once I would like to be on a customer committee to design a hotel room. I am convinced that no interior decorator, bathroom designer, or hotel mechanic has ever travelled nor stayed in a hotel room.

What has changed from the last time I was in Paris (about ten years ago) are the flocks of bicycles and electric stroller everywhere. There are well marked bike lanes everywhere and these two-wheeled “velos” seem to be well integrated into the daily traffic flow. In fact, just like in Stuttgart, Vienna and every other metropolitan area in Europe the rental pods for bikes and strollers are virtually on every corner. All you need to do is get the app, register your credit card and off you go. Since Paris is mostly flat it's a great way to get around.

Friday, July 28th through Sunday, July 30th 2023: We spent two more



delightful days in this beautiful city of lights. Of course, we had a car and driver to make sure we cover all the bases: Eiffel Tower, Montmartre, Sacre Coeur, Seine River Cruise and a drive around town with various stops: Champs Elysees, Place Vendôme, Rue St. Honoré and Rive Gauche. For our farewell dinner I made reservations at the renowned Café De La Paix. On Sunday we were transferred by our excellent Land Operations Partner and took our favorite airline: DELTA back to JFK. My daughter, Alicia, and my grandson, Lukas, were home in NYC and I connected to TPA. It was a fabulous alternative to a PORSCHE trip and underscored one of the key results of our trips: You will make lifelong memories.

II. Results of our 2024 Customers' Trips Requests Survey: Based on the old business adage: "If you want to know how to run your business, ask your customers!" That's precisely what we did. We received a total of 321 votes for trip preferences, which were very helpful and will determine our final 2024 PORSCHE and other cool trips offerings.

- 58% of respondents have been on one or more of our tours:
- 10% plan to travel on more than 5 trips; 35% 3 – 4 trips; and 55% 1 – 2 trips in 2024.
- 74% are most interested in scenic drives and joining the 150 mph Club.
- 48% would like cultural experiences (museums, local markets, historical sites).
- 54% prefer significant food & wine experiences.
- Only 13% mentioned spa and relaxation as their primary goal.

- Regarding duration of a trip: 27% want 5 to 7 days; while 73% prefer a 10 -12-day trip.
- Responses to the budget question of how much to spend on a luxury PORSCHE Tour (including the travel expenses) per person, reflected an understanding of today's values: 53% responded with \$10,000 to \$15,000; 30% stated \$15,000 to \$18,000; and 15% indicated \$18,000 to \$21,000.
- The responses to the destinations question were equally valuable
 - 30% Seven Country Adventure
 - 24% Croatia
 - 23% German Romantic Castles
 - 23% More USA Tours

A big “thank you very much” to all of the wonderful folks who took the time to respond and help us with our 2024 planning.

III. My Final Thoughts: Twelve Commandments for Seniors

Source: Gene Axtell via Ralph Sica

#1 - It's okay to talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.

#2 – “In Style” are the clothes that still fit.

#3 – You don't need anger management. You need people to just stop pissing you off.

#4 – Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

#5 – The biggest lie you tell yourself is, “I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it.”

#6 – “On time” is when you get there.

#7 – Even duct tape can't fix stupid – but it sure does muffle the sound.

#8 – It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.

#9 – Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

#10 – Growing old should have taken longer.

#11 – Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.

#12 – You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.

“One for the road” means peeing before you leave the house.

IV. For THE best peace-of-mind travel service: please call Susan at Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC: +1 813 475 5989.



After you have registered www.fastlanetravel.com for one of our exciting tours, you will need to book your **flights** and **travel protection**. To assist you with these plans, please call our **Luxury Travel Manager, Susan Sheridan at 813-475-5989**. We strive to ensure THE best experience for our clients; our 24/7 emergency support desk is expertly serviced by in-house air specialists. Travel with ease as we have you covered in all locations, at all times. Susan can also counsel you on any pre-/post- private or small group tours, river, or Mediterranean cruises. Also, we highly recommend securing a travel insurance plan. Protecting your trip will give you peace of mind for any medical emergencies, cancellations, delays, or baggage issues. **NOTE: Susan plans, reserves, follows-up and manages all travel arrangements. Please call her at 813-475-5989.**



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 let's look forward to 2024. **I will see you soon in Stuttgart. Can't wait. Peter**



Tirol, Austria: looking at the Hahnenkamm Alpine Mountain Range from my terrace at Castle Igls.



The legendary Timmelsjoch Pass in Tirol, Austria leading across the Alps to St. Leonhard in the Passeier Valley, Südtirol, Italy.



The view from one of our favorite restaurants in Stuttgart



I was on the Board of Directors of World Airways for 14 years. About 20 or so years ago we selected Leipzig-Halle Airport (LEJ) as the key intermediate stop to transport our troops from the Middle East back to the US. Thus, I made friends with the airport manager at LEJ. That airport also was the take-off point for the largest cargo aircraft in the world – the Russian Antonov – which can hold about 60 Cayennes for shipment. In 2012 we organized a trip starting in Leipzig on to Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Salzburg and Stuttgart. Thomas had the crazy idea: “Peter, call your buddy Christoph at the Leipzig Airport and see if we can deliver the PORSCHES in an Antonov. Christoph responded: “no problem, but put them under the wings. Because if you put them inside – they’ll take off with them.”

