



Item: Fast Lane News #33 in 2023 (#180 since 2020) for Saturday, August 12th 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: Our 50th Anniversary! Our 2024 PORSCHE Tours Forecast, My Final Thoughts: Who are we?



I. The Fast Lane Beginning. My late brother-in-law, Dr. Stephen Alexander, MD, studied medicine in Basel, Switzerland. When he completed his MD and returned to the U.S. he brought with him a powder blue PORSCHE 912. Of course, I was aware of PORSCHE. Perhaps too painfully aware, in that I didn't buy that beautiful dark blue 1964 356 B Cabriolet at the VW dealer in Steubenville in January 1965. Given my finances at that time, I had to opt for a red VW instead. In fact, I had to borrow the \$500 downpayment for that car. In the fall of 1974 Stephen took me for a ride in his car on some wonderful back country roads around Syracuse down to Homer, NY. He also let me drive back from Homer.

He then mentioned that he was a member of the Upstate NY Region of the PORSCHE Club of America and that a few of his fellow club members had mentioned that they would love to go to Stuttgart to see where the cars are made. He suggested that since I'm in the travel business, spoke German fluently and travelled to Europe frequently, I should go to Stuttgart, visit PORSCHE and see what I could do about arranging a visit to the PORSCHE Factory.

In the Spring of 1975 I was in Europe, on business, when I called the Executive Offices at PORSCHE and spoke to Frau Mall, the then secretary to Prof. Dr. h.c. Ferry PORSCHE. She indicated that she loved the idea and would be delighted to host us. She also mentioned that back in the "sixties" the "Americans" used to come over in droves and pick up the 356's they had ordered and drove around Europe. Then "suddenly" those trips stopped. I know exactly why the trips stopped – but that's a detail for another chapter.

Back in Baltimore, I spoke to the then Lufthansa Rep, Mike Iskander, who reserved a block of seats in June from JFK to FRA, connecting to STR for a one week stay in Stuttgart. I made reservations at the Graf Zeppelin

Hotel, as recommended by Frau Mall and Stephen and his band of 14 Upstate New York PORSCHE Club Members, then flew to Stuttgart. PORSCHE, headquartered in the suburb of Zuffenhausen, rolled out the red carpet. I had no program arranged for them, except Frau Mall had organized the Factory and, then, old Museum visits plus a very nice dinner at the Graf Zeppelin hosted by PORSCHE. Ed Peter, then PORSCHE VP Marketing, and his wife attended the dinner welcoming the Americans, after a long hiatus, back to Stuttgart. After a couple days in Stuttgart – now what do we do? Stephen organized a train trip to Munich. The bottom line is that they came back very happy and the word of this great trip spread all the way up to the “Executive Council” of the PORSCHE Club of America.

I then got a call from Mick Williams, the then President of the PCA, suggesting that I might want to continue these trips. In fact, the “original” trips were called PCA PORSCHE TREFFEN, named after the PORSCHE Club Germany Präsidenten TREFFEN. The German word: Treffen (n) simply means meeting. So, fifty years ago, in 1975, I created Fast Lane Travel and re-vitalized the long dormant PORSCHE TREFFEN trips. To date we have completed well over 200 PORSCHE Tours, of which 58 were PCA TREFFEN Trips. I’m including a couple chapters in my memoirs about some of the wonderful, hilarious and exciting moments of those trips over the years.

II. 2024 PORSCHE Tours Preparation:

I have to make a comment about creating PORSCHE Tours. Oh, let’s just pick some dates and go for it? Far from it. The key elements of the planning process are interrelated and must be carefully balanced, such as:

- A. Selection of trip dates. Trying to avoid European vacation dates and consequential massive traffic jams.
- B. Avoiding/dealing with German and European Holidays – especially the ominous “bridge” days. They have over twice as many holidays as we in the US or Canada.
- C. Weather – when are mountain passes open or closed?
- D. Which country roads have clean rest stops where a couple dozen people can use the facilities on a timely basis?
- E. Which roads need permits or have tolls?
- F. Museums in Germany are closed on Mondays.
- G. Availability of rental PORSCHEs.
- H. Availability of hotels in key destinations and their deposit requirements.

- I. Availability of secure parking. For example, at the Monaco Beach Hotel I have hired an armed security guard with a German Shepard to guard the cars.
- J. Various countries' driving restrictions.
- K. Select refueling stops without wasting too much time.
- L. Availability of car wash facilities or services.
- M. Relationships with restaurants that accept the fact that we don't drink alcohol at lunch.
- N. . . . you get the picture. It's an art; can't be done online and is underscored by our 50 years of experience, local knowledge, and years of relationships with suppliers, key contacts and police.
- O. For example: **Montepulciano in Tuscany:** Montepulciano is one of the larger towns in Tuscany, up on a hill, surrounded by a wall. It dates back to the 4th century BC. On the very top of the town is Piazza Grande enclosed by City Hall and the huge cathedral. Of course, no cars are permitted inside the town – it's all pedestrians only – except delivery vehicles from 7:00 am to 9:00 am. Gues who parks 14 Porsches on Piazza Grande with a police escort? The white 911 was a Euro Delivery Porsche.



III. 2024 PORSCHE Tours Plan:

2024 Fast Lane Travel, Inc. Porsche Tours Forecast V-10 PS					
From	Date	To	Date	Planned Trips Based on Customer Survey	Highlights
Tue	16-Apr	Mon	22-Apr	PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN Traditional	Lindau, Autobahn & Frühlingsfest
Tue	16-Apr	Thu	25-Apr	Luxury PCA Spring PORSCHE TREFFEN PLUS	. . . and Switzerland, Black Forest, Bugatti
Sun	28-Apr	Mon	6-May	7 Country Drive, stay in Germany & Switzerland	D, L, B, F, CH, FL, & A - Great Experience
Mon	3-Jun	Thu	13-Jun	The BEST of Fast Lane Travel	Switzerland, Alps, Total Luxury
Sun	9-Jun	Mon	17-Jun	101st Le Mans 24-Hour Race, La Sarthe, France	Private Chateau, Helicopter, Grid Walk
Mon	17-Jun	Wed	26-Jun	Twelve Alpine Passes	10th year of this trip - Switzerland & Stelvio
Tue	3-Sep	Sun	15-Sep	FLT 50th Anniversary Trip (our 241st Porsche Tour)	Stuttgart Salzburg, Vienna, Steiermark, Tirol
Thu	19-Sep	Wed	25-Sep	Traditional Original PCA Fall PORSCHE TREFFEN	Lindau & Autobahn
Thu	19-Sep	Sat	28-Sep	Luxury PCA PORSCHE TREFFEN PLUS	. . . and Switzerland, Black Forest, Bugatti
Sat	28-Sep	Sat	12-Oct	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest - Private Secure Estate	+ Cannstatter Volksfest - Interlpen 1 N

My Comments: The **PCA TREFFEN** Trips are the culmination of 50-years of experience of implementing our motto: "It's our business to do pleasure." In this case, we have expanded on the original PCA TREFFEN from the 1960's to provide an unparalleled experience for our fellow PCA members. We have the privilege of amazing PORSCHE Factory access, often to areas closed to the public. That's why no photographs are allowed in the Factory. The Executives at PORSCHE AG in Germany roll out the red carpet for us and only wish that more PCA members would show a greater interest in the source of their passion. I'm counting on stronger support from the PCA.

The **7-Country Drive** is a result of our survey. We do stay in 5-Star Hotels in Germany and Switzerland but pause for lunch or dinners in various locales.

The **BEST of Fast Lane** is a repeat of our legendary 2019 trip designed by Thomas which includes a flight over Lake Constance in a Zeppelin; an awesome helicopter flight up to the Jungfrau Glacier for champagne in the snow; and a rousing conclusion in the Black Forest.

The **Twelve Alpine Passes** is an annual favorite for all lovers of Swiss Alps driving.

Tuscany is a dream trip. I've had customers do it twice, they loved it so much. We are staying at a private winery estate and do excursions from there. Our concluding photo rally is a hoot each year.

Of course, **Fast Lane's 50th Anniversary PORSCHE Fest** is truly special. We pick up our PORSCHEs in Stuttgart and head to Salzburg – of Sound of Music fame. On the way we'll stop at Hans-Peter Porsche's Traumwerk. We have a wonderful program planned around the lake district and a classical Mozart Dinner Evening at the St. Peters Monastery also housing Europe's oldest still operating restaurant founded in 803 (Not 1803). Just outside of Salzburg, we'll visit the new Hans-Peter Porsche TraumWerk in Anger, Germany. TraumWerk is noted for Porsche memorabilia, a collection of toys and a small working train in which one can ride. From Salzburg we head to Vienna, where I was born. I will take you to places where tourists don't go and immerse you in an amazing local experience. From there we head to Steiermark in southern Austria and enjoy lunch at one of Europe's most renown restaurants. Of course, we'll visit Gmünd, the birthplace of the

Mon	2-Sep	2024 50th Anniversary PORSCHE Tour
Wed	4-Sep	Depart US or Canada
Thu	5-Sep	Arrive Stuttgart - Drivers Briefing
Fri	6-Sep	Stuttgart pick up cars - Drive to Salzburg, Red Bull
Sat	7-Sep	FREE DAY/Sightseeing, Porsche Traum - Mozart Dinner
Sun	8-Sep	Drive to VIE - mountains, leave cars safely at Blaguss
Mon	9-Sep	Vienna - sightseeing - local attractions - Opera
Tue	10-Sep	Drive to Zell am See via Pogusch
Wed	11-Sep	R/T Grossglockner, Gmünd, back to Zell am See
Thu	12-Sep	Drive to Interlpen via Gerlos Waterfall
Fri	13-Sep	FREE DAY - Austrian Farewell Party
Sat	14-Sep	Drive to STR return cars , Christophorus Farewell
Sun	15-Sep	Return Home

PORSCHE 356 and then head across the ominous Grossglockner to our favorite Interlpen Hotel in Tirol. Here is the trip outline:

Invitations for this very special trip will go out in November. First to our loyal alumni customers, who have become family, and want to share this very special celebration with friends they have made over the years on one of our over 200 Fast Lane Travel PORSCHE Tours. I can't wait to be there with you and share the last of my **True Stories** with you. I particularly look forward to sharing some first-hand and ancient history of the place where I was born and grew up. I lived through a brutal dictatorship; Incessant bombings of WWII; Ten years of Russian occupation and socialism. You'll have an unequalled experience. If you want me to **hold a space** for you –

please send “**Peter I’m/we’re in**” to peter@fastlanetravel.com – I’ll also send an advance copy of the itinerary.

IV. My Final Thoughts: Who are we?

Sent by: Ralph Sica

- We were born in the 40s.
- We grew up in the 40s-50s-60s.
- We studied in the 50s-60s-70s.
- We dated in the 50s-60s-70s.
- We got married and discovered the world in the 60s-70s-80s.
- We made mistakes and learned in the 70s-80s.
- We stabilized in the 90s.
- We got wiser in the 2000s.
- And went firmly through the 2010s.
- Turns out we've lived through NINE different decades..
- TWO different centuries...
- TWO different millennia...

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world, we have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and WhatsApp...

From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, and then to HDTV...

We went to Blockbuster and now we watch Netflix...We got to know the first computers, punch cards, diskettes and now we have gigabytes and megabytes in hand on our cell phones or iPads...

We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long pants, oxfords, Bermuda shorts, etc. We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, H1N1 flu and now COVID-19...

We rode skates, tricycles, invented cars, bicycles, mopeds, gasoline or diesel cars and now we ride hybrids or 100% electric...

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had! They could describe us as "exennials" people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood. We're kind of Ya-seen-it-all.

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life. It is our generation that has literally adapted to "CHANGE".

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which are UNIQUE. Here's a precious and very true message:

TIME DOES NOT STOP! Life is a task that we do ourselves every day. When you look... it's already six in the afternoon; when you look... it's already Friday; when one looks... the month is over; when one looks... the year is over; when one looks... 50, 60, 70 and 80 years have passed.

When you look... we no longer know where our friends are. When you look... we lost the love of our life and now, it's too late to go back.

Do not stop doing something you like due to lack of time. Do not stop having someone by your side, because your children will soon not be yours, and you will have to do something with that remaining time, where the only thing that we are going to miss will be the space that can only be enjoyed with the usual friends. This time that, unfortunately, never returns...

The day is today!

WE ARE NO LONGER AT AN AGE TO POSTPONE ANYTHING.

Hopefully, you have time to read and then share this message... or else leave it for *Later* and you will see that you will never share it!

Always together, Always united, Always brothers/sisters, Always friends



V. 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**