



**Item:** Fast Lane News #34 in 2023 (#181 since 2020) for Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> 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:** What is ETIAS? Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! My Final Thoughts: How to Strengthen the Bond With Your Grandkids



## **I. What is ETIAS? It's Not a Visa—but U.S. and Canadian Citizens Will Need to Register and Pay a Fee to Travel to Europe in 2024**

**Source:** [AFAR.com/magazine/us-citizens-will-need-a-visa-to-travel-to-europe](https://afar.com/magazine/us-citizens-will-need-a-visa-to-travel-to-europe)

**Bottom Line:** It's no big deal and not an obstacle for us, just another step in the booking process – It's for everyone's security and safety reassurance. Unlike the US, Europe cares about its border security!

Europe's new ETIAS travel authorization program is slated to go live sometime in 2024. Here's how much it will cost and what the application process will entail when it comes into effect. Europe is the **most-visited** region in the world and has always been a very popular destination for U.S. travelers. After pandemic travel restrictions were dropped across Europe in 2022 and as U.S. citizens plot future journeys to the continent once again, they should be aware that the rules for entry into the European Schengen Zone will soon change.

Initially meant to come into effect on January 1, 2021, and then delayed again until 2023, the European Travel Information and Authorization System (**ETIAS**) is **now slated to launch sometime in 2024**—more on the actual launch date below. At that point, all U.S. citizens who want to travel to the 27 member countries of Europe's Schengen Zone will need to register with ETIAS or risk being turned away at the border. Here's everything you need to know about the new ETIAS process.

### **Why are the requirements for entering Europe changing?**

The European Union decided to implement this new travel authorization program to protect and strengthen its borders amid mounting terror threats in Europe. By requiring visitors to register, the EU will be able to identify any possible threats or risks associated with travelers coming into these countries before they arrive.

## Which European nations will require ETIAS authorization to visit?

**Bottom Line:** All of them. The new travel authorization applies to those entering any member country of Europe's Schengen Zone. Currently, that includes 23 countries that are also members of the European Union, four non-EU countries, plus three European micro-states. That means that you'll need to register to enter:

However, there are still many European nations that aren't part of the Schengen Zone, mostly in Eastern Europe. That means you'll be able to travel to Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine without an ETIAS registration.

## Who will need to obtain ETIAS authorization?

American and Canadian citizens, as well as travelers from 60 other countries, will require an ETIAS visa waiver to travel to any of the Schengen-zone countries for short stays once the ETIAS program goes into effect. The list of [ETIAS-eligible countries](#) includes Canada, Mexico, Australia, and many more. All travelers, regardless of their age, will need their own ETIAS approval in order to travel to Europe's Schengen Zone countries.

## How will travelers apply for ETIAS and how much will it cost?

Once the ETIAS application is available online, it should only take about 10 minutes to fill out, according to [ETIAS.com](#). To apply, you'll need a [valid passport](#), an email address, and a debit or credit card to pay **the nonrefundable 7-euro application fee**, which applies to individuals between the ages of 18 and 70. Those under the age of 18 or over 70 still need to have an ETIAS but will not be charged. There are no other fees associated with the program.

## How long will the authorization process take?

After you fill out your application online with the personal information on your passport and answer a series of security and health-related questions, your ETIAS application will be processed immediately, and **you will receive an email confirming that your ETIAS has been approved within 96 hours or less.**

“A small percentage of applications may take up to four weeks to process if additional documentation is required from the applicant. If your ETIAS has not yet been approved and you do not have any other travel authorization, you will not be able to enter a country within the European Union,” according to the [ETIAS website](#).

### **Will you have to reapply for each trip to Europe?**

No, you will not need to reapply after each trip to Europe. After you apply for the first time, **your ETIAS authorization will be valid for three years—or until your passport expires**, whichever comes first. Because the ETIAS is valid for short-term stays of up to 90 days for both leisure and business travelers, you’ll be able to re-enter Europe multiple times within that three-year period without renewing it, as long as your stay doesn’t exceed 90 days within a 180-day period. Those who want to study or work in Europe will need to apply for a proper work or study visa.

Does this mean I will need a visa to travel to Europe?

**ETIAS is not a visa, it’s a travel authorization requirement for visa-free visitors**, similar to the U.S. [Electronic System for Travel Authorization \(ESTA\)](#).

The new entry requirement “is more accurately referred to as a **visa-waiver**. The ETIAS, like the ESTA, is a travel authorization for travelers not requiring a visa to visit Europe. Under the ETIAS, these visitors will undergo additional security checks prior to being permitted to enter the EU. The ETIAS will be mandatory for citizens of such countries as the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada,” states [ETIAS.com](#), the landing page for news and information regarding the new travel authorization process.

In other words, ETIAS will only prescreen travelers who do *not* need a Schengen visa. According to a fact sheet provided by the [European Commission](#), “Nationals of visa liberalization countries will continue to travel the EU without a visa but will simply be required to obtain a travel authorization via ETIAS prior to their travel.

“An ETIAS travel authorization does not reintroduce visa-like obligations,” it continues. “There is no need to go to a consulate to make an application, no biometric data is collected and significantly less information is gathered than during a visa application procedure.”

## Why was the launch of ETIAS delayed?

Initially meant to come into effect on January 1, 2021, the ETIAS was first delayed until January 1, 2023. It is now slated to enter into operation in 2024, due to delays in the anticipated adoption of the ETIAS regulation plus the fact that ETIAS is being developed closely with the Entry/Exit System (EES), which was scheduled to launch in May 2023, but it has been pushed back until at least the end of 2023 and possibly into mid-2024. The EES is the electronic system that keeps track of visitors as they cross borders, and it is a precondition for ETIAS to enter into operation.

## When exactly will ETIAS go into effect?

The exact launch date for Europe's ETIAS travel authorization program has not been announced. The launch of ETIAS is contingent on the establishment of Europe's new tech-driven [Entry/Exit System](#) (EES) that will keep track of visitors as they cross borders. An updated timeline for the EES and ETIAS systems will be presented in October, according to the European Commission. **In other words, we'll know more in October 2023.**

Once ETIAS goes into effect in 2024, a transitional period of six months will follow. During that time frame, the countries requiring the travel authorization will have to inform travelers of the new regulations. They will still be allowed to cross borders during that six-month period without the ETIAS. The six-month transitional period will be followed by a grace period, the length of which has not yet been determined. During the grace period, the ETIAS requirement will apply unless it's a traveler's first-time entering Europe since the end of the transitional period.

**II. 2024 PORSCHE Tours Preparation:** The response to our announcement of the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fast Lane** has been wonderfully overwhelming. Three couples immediately responded "We're in for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trip." Thank you very much for your prompt response. I am still working with Thomas and our staff on the details – but rest assured it will truly be a once in a lifetime event. Invitations will go out in November. Not only will the various hotels, restaurants and our various European contacts be ready to celebrate with us, but the PORSCHE Company will roll out the red carpet. I can't disclose specifics at this time, but you can count on a very special experience, especially in Austria. You'll be visiting little villages, drive roads and cross mountains on scenic backroads, the Band of Brothers hasn't even discovered.

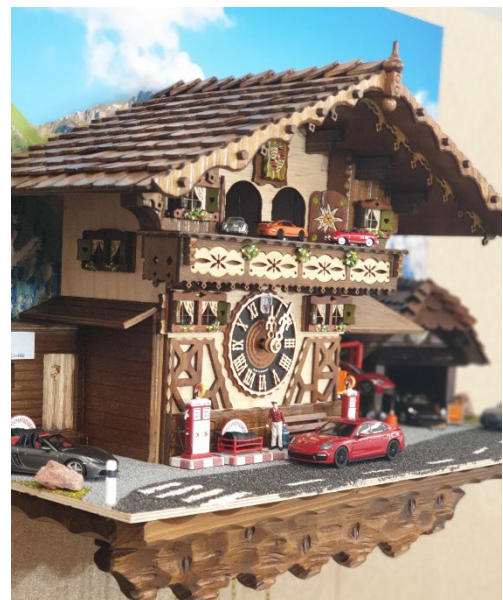
### III. 2024 PORSCHE Tours Plan:

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 2024 7-Country Driving

**Adventure** 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 and drive some wonderful roads. Of course, the "Bugatti" Musée National de l'Automobile in Mulhouse is legendary. I will also have a special surprise for everyone by displaying the first **Fast Lane Cuckoo Clock**. You'll be able to order one and have a **miniature of your car**, with all its detail, including your license plate, as part of the clock display.





**The 2024 BEST of Fast Lane PORSCHE Tours** 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 concluding in the Black Forest.



**There is nothing like enjoying a glass of champagne on top of the Jungfrau Glacier. What a great idea Thomas. Plus a Zeppelin Flight over Lake Constance – what a treat!**



**The 2024 Twelve Alpine Passes** is an annual favorite for all lovers of Swiss Alps driving. And, yes, we're heading up the legendary **Passo dello Stelvio** with its 48 hairpin turns from Italy across to Switzerland, Where there will be another 11 more passes waiting for us on this trip.



**The 2024 Tuscany is a dream trip.** I've had customers return for this very trip a second time. We stay at the beautiful winery: Casali di Bibbiano and do excursions from there to Florence, Siena, Montepulciano, Pienza, parts of the Mille Miglia and, of course, Buoncnvento. Our concluding photo rally, with "valuable prizes" that I purchase on the Flea Market in Stuttgart, is a hoot each year.



Of course, **Fast Lane's 50<sup>th</sup> 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). We'll visit the new 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 PORSCHE 356 and then head across the ominous Grossglockner to our favorite Interlpen Hotel in Tirol. Here is the trip outline:

Mon	2-Sep	<b>2024 50th Anniversary PORSCHE Tour</b>
Wed	4-Sep	Depart US or Canada
Thu	5-Sep	Arrive Stuttgart - Drivers Briefing
Fri	6-Sep	Stuttgart <b>pick up cars</b> - Drive to Salzburg, Red Bull
<b>Sat</b>	<b>7-Sep</b>	FREE DAY/Sightseeing, Porsche Traum - Mozart Dinner
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8-Sep</b>	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
<b>Sat</b>	<b>14-Sep</b>	Drive to STR <b>return cars</b> , Christophorus Farewell
<b>Sun</b>	<b>15-Sep</b>	Return Home

**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 WW II; 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](mailto:peter@fastlanetravel.com) – I'll also send an advance copy of the itinerary.



## IV. My Final Thoughts: How to Strengthen the Bond With Your Grandkids

Source: Wellness.com, by the Wellness Editor, © 2020, Wellness.com



OPA and Lukas hanging out and enjoying travel stories at the Bar (OPA – Screwdriver; Lukas – apple juice spritzer)

Grandkids truly are the sunshine that makes every day brighter! As a grandparent, it's important to pass on family values and traditions and to help the little ones feel like they have a tie to those from whom they've come. We want to help them build memories that will sustain them after we've gone and we want to absorb some of that little-kid delight to warm our days as well. Sometimes, with the age gap and generational differences, we may feel like we're missing the mark. But don't worry, we've got you covered.

### Introduce Grandkids to Your Favorite Hobbies

The best part about being older is having some extra time that we didn't have when our own kids were little. All of a sudden, we can push deeper into the things we love and hobbies are one of the best boons of that extra time. Conveniently, they are also one of the best ways for grandkids to learn about us. They can see who we are even as they learn something fun. Whether it's gardening, golf or photography, introduce it to them and let them get in there with their little hands. Show off those valuable tips and skills. Remember that lecturing to a kid doesn't help them engage. Let them hold the tools and tackle a project on their own. Give them their own garden patch. Let them experiment

with the tools and things you're teaching, too. Don't be so fast to step in and correct them or tell them how to get it 'right' — they may help you find a breakthrough in the process.

Don't forget to ask about their hobbies, too. Even if it's playing video games, we can learn something new from them as they share. The willing grandparent is the bonded grandparent.

### **Be a Tech-Savvy Grandparent**

Kids of all ages are learning how to [video-chat on phones or computers](#). Many don't like to just talk on the phone anymore. Being able to see and interact with the grandkids can enrich the entire experience but it shows your willingness to interact with them on their terms, even if it makes you uncomfortable. This helps to strengthen the bond, especially if they live far away.

**Pro Tip:** Texting is where it's at these days. Most kids prefer text or email over the phone or even video. Remember though that many find end-stop punctuation to sound rude or formal or even curt. So, to soften your language and come off as friendly, leave off that period from the last sentence in a string.

### **The Best Grandparents Show Up**

One of the best things that can be done to improve grandparent-child [relationships](#) is to be there for them in their environment. Show up for dance recitals and birthdays of course, but invest in their [daily projects](#), too. Let them know they're appreciated, and be their biggest fan, rooting them on from the sidelines in everything they do from the math test to the newest skateboard move. Show them they matter to you, and be the foundation for encouragement and positivity in their lives. Sometimes parents get caught up in the daily grind and the cheerleader role is one that's perfect for grandparents.

### **Be Okay With a One-Sided Relationship**

Remember that kids are caught up in their worlds and forget to keep connected to the people who matter most. Don't ever nag or chastise them for this, but instead, just get in there and keep asking about their things. They'll remember that you care [when they stop to look around](#).

Consider traveling together, taking vacations or just having a Sunday dinner every week to help reinforce relationships and to move their focus back to the family in the off-time. It doesn't have to be elaborate. A walk down to the lake to fish or a jaunt through a biking trail can really encourage a healthy and interactive grandkid/grandparent relationship.

Material things can be nice, but they are just that, things. Our grandkids will remember the time they spend with us long after we're gone, rather than a doll or truck they got for Christmas or their birthday so keep the focus on time and don't expect the kid to make you the center of their world. Just keep showing up and let that be enough.

Building a solid relationship foundation comes with nurturing, interaction, trust and time. All of these things are free to give and take — but none of them happen without effort. The payoff of strongly bonded families is well worth every moment, though.

**V. For your professional 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](http://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**