



Item: Fast Lane News #40 in 2023 (#187 since 2020) for Sat., Sept. 30th 2023
From: Peter from the Graf Zeppelin Hotel in Stuttgart, Lake Constance, Ascona, Switzerland, and Lake Como, Italy
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: 2023 PORSCHE Daily Trip Report #2; My Final Thoughts: What is Retirement, Really?

I. The 2023 Fall PCA TREFFEN to Stuttgart Report #2

• Friday, September 22nd 2023 continued:

Today, on the program: The PORSCHE Factory tour. We were so lucky. This year there are no more dates for a Factory tour. Thanks to our fifty years of relationship with the wonderful PORSCHE Club Coordination Executives, we had TWO. The 911 will continue to be produced in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen. Talk about amazing engineering efficiency, every 5 minutes a 911 is completed, up to 300 per day. The assembly workers are working 7 hours 55 minutes each. There are 3 shifts. There are over 140 work stations. Each car spends about 2 to 3 minutes at each station. Since the Factory is in the middle of Zuffenhausen surrounded by the residential area, the production operates only Mon-Fri.

We had a delicious lunch at the Boxenstop Restaurant at the Museum – Thank you PORSCHE Company very much. In the afternoon we were able to visit the Taycan Production Line. It's the same work schedule; however, there are only two shifts. There are not as many work stations like for the 911, but instead there are 7 areas, i.e., work pods. For each area a crew has 10-12 minutes to do their assembly work. It is also much more automated robot QR code based. The 911 Production is still barcode based. The Taycan Factory is 25 meters high (about 80 ft.), because more is not allowed due to zoning restrictions in Zuffenhausen; therefore, an additional 25 meters of the Taycan Factory is underground.

In addition, our PCA Group got a special, private Museum tour despite the fact the Museum was already closed for a special event. FYI, the employees get a discount: new cars 20%, used cars 10%!

- **Saturday, September 23rd 2023:** Today is our first driving day. Everyone was perfectly on time this morning for our 8:30 am departure. Miro has the large luggage loaded and is ready to head to Bavaria. Our PCA PORSCHE TREFFEN group got onto our motor coach with our “carry on” luggage and headed to the PORSCHE Factory & Museum in busy Zuffenhausen. There a 911 Dakar was waiting for us. Well, not exactly just for us. It is the latest rare 911 of which they are only making 2,500 at about \$225,000 each. It's the legendary Paris to Dakar Rally Porsche for street use. The 911 Dakar features a jacked-up suspension, all-terrain tires and an anti-lock braking system, ideal for loose gravel and desert sand. It was today's focal point at the Porsche Museum.



In addition, and perhaps for our immediate objective our rental Porsches were lined up under the stunning Porsche Museum mirrored ceiling canopy. The Porsche team did a remarkable job getting ready for us.

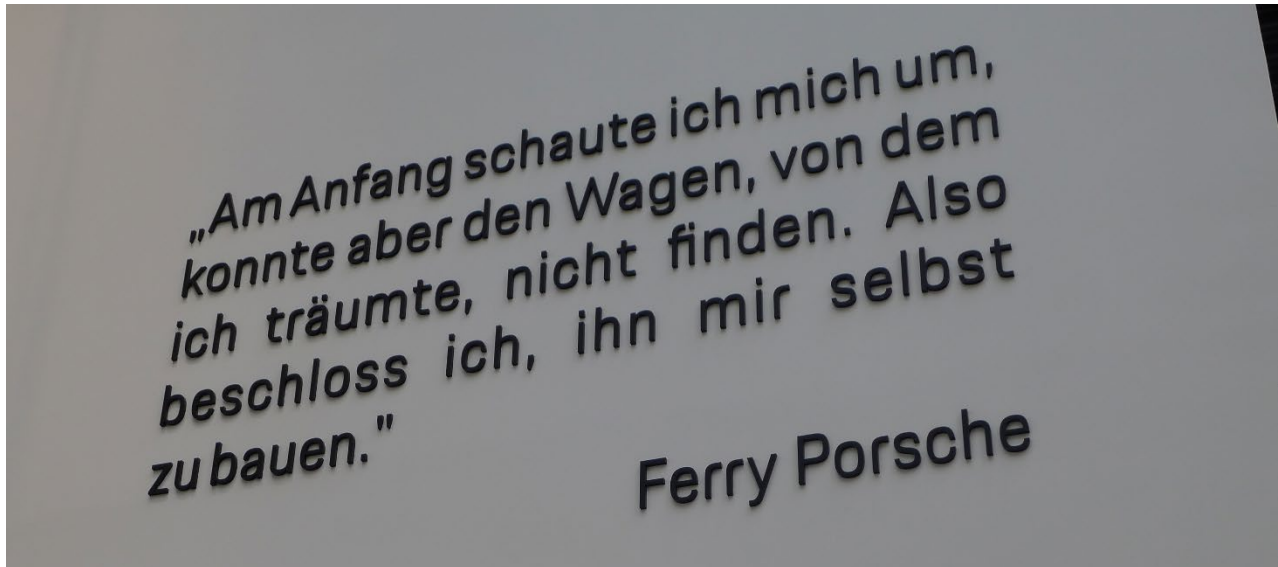


We completed all the paperwork – passport, international driver's license and the credit card used when the reservation was made. Miro and Fabian distributed the walkie talkies to each car and pre-programmed the navigation to our first two destinations. You can also see Miro's luggage van in this picture. From there he headed straight to Lindau, on Lake Constance.

Fabian and I were in the lead 911 Coupe, right behind us were Roger and Susan from Virginia who had picked up their gorgeous Panamera GTS in Leipzig about three days before the TREFFEN. The wing team were Guy and Elizabeth from Florida in a very fast Turbo S. In between, we had Mark & Eileen on their 9th trip with us and their nephews Brian and Daniel, also experienced Fast Lane repeat trip experts. Mark and Eileen are also gladly continuing on the Inter Alpen Porsche Fest – after the TREFFEN. In between Susan, our agency manager, who has designed a wonderful few days in Milan for them, which will be followed by a few days in Vienna, (my birthplace) where I will be their personal guide. I will take them to places that the "Band of Brothers" hadn't even discovered. John and Linda from Rhode Island and Drs. George and Fred from California and Massachusetts respectively, were driving beautiful 911 Cabriolets each. The team was rounded out by Brian and Jamison in a 911 Coupe, who had to leave the trip early to attend the Rennsport Reunion. They are having such a good time



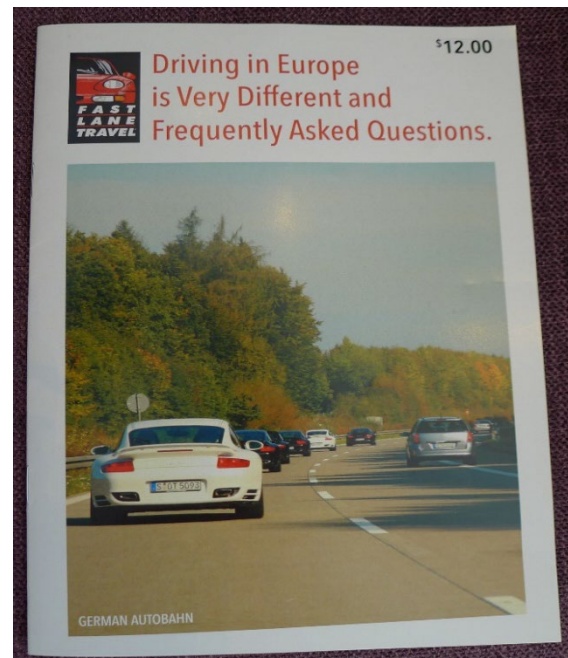
that Brian swore on a stack of Fast Lane brochures that they'll be back in 2024 for the **Twelve Alpine Passes Porsche Fest**.



After Ferry Porsche's inspiring words we headed out; safely connected with our walkie talkies; The Porsche NAVI Systems programmed; plus our NAVI Roadbook ready and reviewed. I placed Roger and Susan in their new European Delivery Panamera GTS right behind Fabian and me (the lead car) because their Panamera did not have the European navigation system. However, the good news is that Google navigation and WAZE works in Europe. Thus the phone navigation systems are OK. When I picked up my Panamera GTS, I ordered the European PORSCHE Navi System because I kept the car here for about 6 months to conduct the tours. It was less expensive than renting a car for six months. All the rental PORSCHEs have the PORSCHE Navi System installed. It is a very user friendly and intuitive system.

We left the PORSCHE Museum in a neat group, did a 270 degree turn at the Porscheplatz Roundabout and headed north to the A-81. North you ask? Yes, because that is THE most efficient way to depart the Porscheplatz. In about 10 minutes we looped onto the A-81 South toward Karlsruhe

and München. In this dense urban commuter area, there is a 120 kms (72 mph) speed limit. About 10 minutes later we were on the A-8 heading East past the Stuttgarter Degerloch (STR) Airport and the new “Messe” Zentrum. Once past the airport we saw our favorite Autobahn Road Sign: NO SPEED LIMIT. It was a sunny day, there was little traffic and the Autobahn was straight and smooth. Fabian was driving. He slammed the gas pedal down and we were instantly propelled to 200 km/h then topping out a 260 km/h – about 162 mph. Initially the rest of the team hung back a bit, but they quickly caught on after I told them through the walkie talkie that the gas pedal is on the right. How is it possible that in the US the fatality rate on our Interstate Highway System is 2½ times higher than the Interstate Highway System in Germany? About half of the Autobahn has no speed limit. It is one heck of a lot safer to drive here on the no speed limit sections than at 55 mph in the US. This is possible because of their drivers’ training, laws, national abhorrence of drinking and driving and a superbly designed and maintained highway system. There isn’t a single pot hole on the gently banked curves of the Autobahn. Please read our publication ***“Driving in Europe is Very Different and Frequently Asked Questions”***. Please don’t ever drive in Europe without having been on one of our tours, or at least have read and understood the content of this booklet. It could save your life and certainly make your trip safer and more enjoyable.



- **Sunday, September 24th 2023:** Today was a planned FREE day for our guests. The island of Lindau on Lake Constance is truly one of the best places to relax for a day. It has a beautiful lakeside promenade; delightful souvenir shops, restaurants and Biergartens by the lake and the Unger Bicycle Rental right around the corner from the hotel, to which



Miro, Fabian and I took advantage. We rode along the shore the Bodensee – **Lake Constance** in English – we arrived at the renowned stately Hotel **Bad** Schachen. I am often asked the question: “Why is there a prefix BAD in front of a town or hotel?” I’d rather stay at a good hotel than a bad one!? The prefix “**Bad**” simply means “spa” typically with a natural hot spring. Thus, for example, a town, like **Bad Kleinkirchheim** in Austria, boasts of a natural hot spring associated with a wonderful spa and all of its associated amenities associated. Europeans like to vacation in various areas with hot springs to “take the waters.” For example, in Colorado, Glenwood Springs or Strawberry Park are known for their hot springs. There is nothing like a soothing massage after “taking the waters.”

I watched this guy parallel park this boat today. It was an amazing feat.



Tomorrow we are leaving beautiful Lake Constance and will be driving into Switzerland. Note: Switzerland is not part of the EU – so we'll be crossing an international border. Everybody must have their passports ready just in case. After a delightful lunch high up in the Swiss Alps we will be driving across the challenging Splügen Pass from Switzerland to Italy. To give a little glimpse of the roads we are taking you on:

Any questions?



- **Monday, September 25th 2023:** Miro must have everyone's luggage in the lobby, ideally by no later than 9:15 am and witness their luggage being loaded to make sure nothing is left behind. The cars are lined up and we're ready. We headed from Lindau directly into Switzerland. After about an hour we stopped at our usual post-breakfast pit stop in Switzerland: Heidiland. It's an amazing restaurant and, of course, gift shop. From there we arrived in the romantic little village of Splügen.

After a healthy and scrumptious lunch, we headed up the Splügen Pass, briefly stopping on top of the 6,935 ft. Pass.

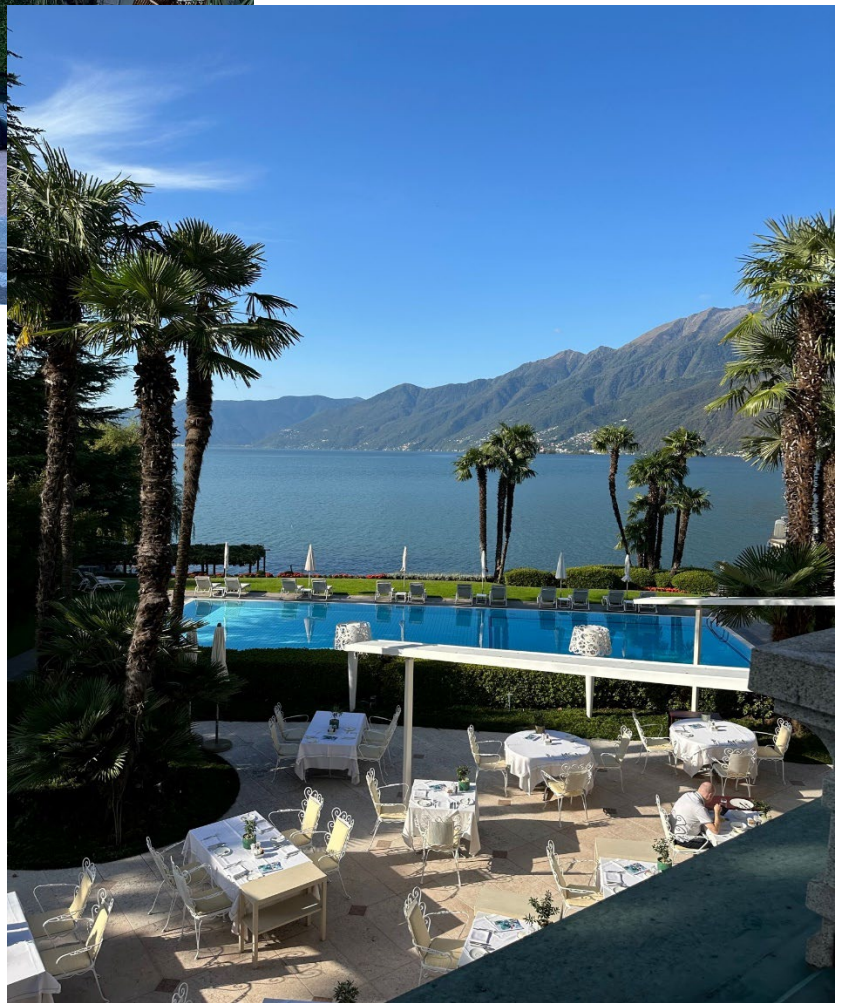
We then drove down the other side to Lake Como. Everyone had a chance to master the paddle shifters. The hotel on the bottom of the pass, where we normally stop for a break with coffee and strudel, was closed.





Instead, we called our friends in Tremezzo and had a relaxing break at the Grand Hotel Tremezzo. From there we headed across the mountain to the romantic Lago Maggiore. Miro had already delivered everyone's luggage to their stunning lake front rooms.

In this beautiful Italian Province of Varese and Lombardi the main issue for our trips is PARKING. It's impossible to just pull over with a dozen PORSCHEs and go to the bathroom. Thus, based on our years of experience we know all the pit stops where we have enough parking so that we can take a break.



We pulled into Ascona at the renowned Eden Roc Hotel. As expected, all of our luggage was already in our stunning Lake Front Rooms. We had a spectacular sunset dinner, concluding a wonderful day.



- **Tuesday, September 26th 2023:** Another perfect day in Switzerland . . . today's destination: Bellagio, the beautiful peninsular between the two legs of Lake Como. It was also the first day of our legendary "James Bond" Photo Rally. We arrived, as planned, at the Lake Como Ferry in Menaggio. Everyone had their rally books in hand looking for clues.

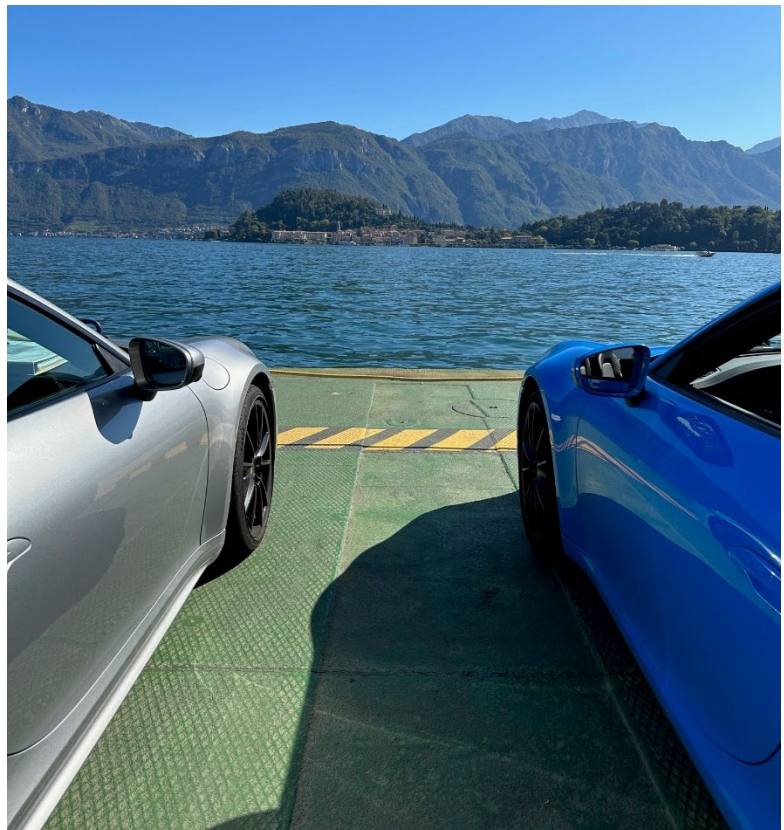


After docking in Bellagio, it is always a hilarious experience of us driving, with a police permit, through the “pedestrian only” zone to the Grand Hotel Serbellino where we have reserved parking and a delicious lunch waiting for us. Our



guide, Fabia, was waiting for us. We enjoyed a wonderful, guided tour of this old Roman outpost. Everyone then had a couple hours to do some shopping. One of our favorite stores is the shoe shop: Calzoleria Rolando.

You can't miss it because it has a Fast Lane 150 mph Club decal in the window.





Tonight, we had another wonderful dinner at the Eden Roc at the shore of Lago Maggiore.

- Wednesday, September 27th 2023:** Woohoo, everyone could sleep-in today on our FREE morning. The hotel is located on the magnificent shore of Lago Maggiore. When you walk to the lake front and make a right you walk along one of the most beautiful lake front promenades in Europe. Little restaurants, boutiques, boat rentals and souvenir shops. It is simply delightful. We met at our PORSCHEs at noon and headed to the Valle Verzasca. The huge Verzasca Dam is legendary for bungee jumping, dam climbing and walking across the dam to enjoy the amazing view of the valley. One of the rally questions, worth 300 points, was: Which James Bond Movie featured this dam and what were they doing? Everyone got it right . . . don't you love Google? We had a rustic lunch at Osteria Paradiso.



The rally dinner was a huge success. The Eden Roc Team did an excellent job preparing for the Photo Rally Dinner. We had cocktails outside on the terrace.





Every one of the gentlemen received a specially selected beer stein, the ladies received a huge Toblerone chocolate bar plus a couple of “fun” gifts were handed out for special recognition, like Daniel and Brian got a Playboy Magazine from 2002, which they were eager to read – but it was all in German . . .





- **Thursday, September 28th 2023:**

Today we headed back to Stuttgart. We made a brief stop in the Art Deco Illertal Rest Area.



From there to Serways Denkendorf, filling up the gas tanks of our PORSCHEs and from then straight, at a pretty good clip, to



Stuttgart to return our cars which are checked meticulously for any damages – even minor stuff. The PORSCHE staff, as in the old days with AVIS, check the cars very carefully at the Übergabe and Rückgabe for any pre- and post-damage. Our bus was waiting, and we quickly returned to the Graf Zeppelin to check back in. Everyone's luggage was in their rooms, delivered promptly, correctly, and expeditiously by Miro. That is why it is important to be attentive when you receive your beautiful rental PORSCHE.



Tonight is the event, which some customers, in the past, actually viewed as the highlight of the trip: the **Cannstatter Volksfest**. It is Stuttgart's version of the Oktoberfest. Thomas, of course, has arranged private seating in the "Empore" the luxurious upstairs section of the massive beer tent with private bathrooms . . . that is



huge. Johnny has invited some of his friends in the local "Dirndl" dress.

Of course, there is music, laughter, dancing, much cheering and German drinking songs. The best part is that the band also plays numerous old and new American

songs. You haven't lived until you have seen 10,000 slightly inebriated Germans dancing on tables singing "Take me home



country road." Our good friend, and owner of the Schwabenwelt, Michael Wilhelmer stopped by to greet us. We miss his late mom. What an awesome farewell party!



Tomorrow I am flying to Vienna, Austria to get ready for Mark and Eileen



Fischer's visit to my hometown. I will treat them to a very personal and compelling tour of Austria's capital. Details and pictures to follow next week. Everybody visits the Schönbrunn Palace . . . but nobody gets a private tour

of medieval Castle Kreuzenstein . . . unless I personally make arrangements of this privately owned magnificent fortress.



II. 2024: We are working feverishly on finalizing next year's trips: Of course, two back-to-back Fast Lane's 50th Anniversary PORSCHE Fest Tours will be awesome. Thank you for your patience. A couple of weeks ago, when I announced our 50th anniversary plans, I had a flood of "We are coming, please hold a space for us." It'll be another couple three weeks before the details are finalized. **It will be spectacular – still working on the details – save the date! Our plans for all PORSCHE trips next year look like this:**

2024 Porsche Driving Tours - V 8						
From	Date	To	Date	CODE	PORSCHE TOUR	HIGHLIGHTS
Tue	16-Apr	Sat	20-Apr	STM	Mini PCA Spring TREFFEN MINI	Factory & Museum and Frühlingsfest
Tue	16-Apr	Mon	22-Apr	STR	Original PCA Spring TREFFEN Regular	..and 2 days driving
Tue	16-Apr	Thu	25-Apr	STP	Original PCA Spring TREFFEN PLUS	...and 3 more days driving, Black Forest
Sun	28-Apr	Mon	6-May	SCA	Seven Country Adventure	Germ, Lichen, Bel, Switz, Austria, Luxem, France
Mon	3-Jun	Thu	13-Jun	BOF	Best of Fast Lane	Zeppelin, Helicopter Glacier, Black Forest
Sun	9-Jun	Mon	17-Jun	LEM	101st Le Mans	Chateau near track, paddock, grid walk
Mon	17-Jun	Wed	26-Jun	TAP	Twelve Alpine Passes	Austria and Switzerland
Sat	29-Jun	Sun	7-Jul	COF	US Celebration of Freedom	Milwaukee to Mt Rushmore - Denver
Wed	10-Jul	Fri	19-Jul	COL	US Colorado Rocky Mountain High	Pikes Peak, Nat'l Monumnet, Ritz Carlton
Sun	1-Sep	Thu	12-Sep	50A #1	50th Anniversary PORSCHE Tour	Salzburg, Zell am See, Mürss, Vienna
Tue	10-Sep	Sun	22-Sep	50A #2	50th Anniversary PORSCHE Tour	Salzburg, Zell am See, Mürss, Vienna
Sun	29-Sep	Sat	12-Oct	TPF	Tuscany PORSCHE Fest	14th Florence, Siena, Montepulciano, Cooking
Wed	16-Oct	Sun	20-Oct	FTM	PCA Fall Treffen MINI	Factory & Museum and Octoberfest
Wed	16-Oct	Tue	22-Oct	FTR	PCA Fall Treffen REGULAR	..and 2days driving, autobahn
Wed	16-Oct	Fri	25-Oct	FTP	PCA Fall Treffen PLUS	...and 3 more days driving, Black Forest
Tue	22-Oct	Tue	29-Oct	SMR	US Southern Moonshine Festival Rally	NEW: Dragon, Cheroihala, Moonshine Festival

I. My Final Thoughts: What is retirement, really?

Source: www.rd.com – originally published on April 10, 2023

1. What do you call someone who enjoys Mondays?
Retired.
2. You know it's time to retire when your co-workers are wearing clothing from your youth and calling it "**retro**".
3. The truth is, retirement kills more people than hard work ever did.
4. Retirement is wonderful. It's doing nothing without worrying about getting caught.

5. When is the best time to start thinking about your retirement?
Before the boss does.
6. My company recently gave me an aptitude test, and I found out the work I was best suited for was retirement.
7. What's the key to a structured retirement?
A rigid nap schedule.
8. Retirement is what happens between doctors' appointments.
9. Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps you in touch with your children.
10. Sometimes the best part of your career is retirement.
11. Why was the retiree's wife tired?
She got twice as much husband for half the pay.
12. What's worse than middle age?
Knowing you'll grow out of it.
13. How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?
One, but it'll take all day.
14. Retirement is like one big sick day without sick pay

IV. Reminder: Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC: You are using a financial advisor or a CPA to handle your financial affairs, taking advantage of their knowledge – then please call our travel advisors to handle your travel: Flights, Cruises, Tours, Custom Trips & Your Private Jet Charter Flights. **For our coveted professional travel service: Susan Sheridan is here for you at Fast Lane Luxury Travel, LLC: +1 813 475 5989.**



After you have registered 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.



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**

V. I am just Sharing More Fond Random Memories with You.

Note: Participants on the 2023 PORSCHE Trips will see all of these images below:





